

VIRGIN RAIL OFFER
TRAVEL BRITAIN FROM £5
TOKEN PAGE 35

COOKING IN THE CLASSROOM
Nigella Lawson on children stirring it up
PAGE 17

POLITICAL CHIC
Why French women MPs are more glamorous
PAGE 16

HOMES OF THE FUTURE
12-PAGE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



Sparks fly over flowers and dinners

Howard team accused of smear tactics

By Andrew Pierce and Richard Ford

ANN Widdecombe, the former Prisons Minister, accused Michael Howard of attempting to discredit her yesterday as the Tory leadership contest descended into personal abuse and bitter recriminations.

The former Home Secretary denied Miss Widdecombe's claims that he, or his campaign team, were behind the reports that she had become too close to Derek Lewis, the sacked prisons director. Miss Widdecombe dismissed as a "demonstrable smear" the suggestions that her judgment had been clouded about Mr Lewis after he had wooed her with flowers, chocolates and private dinners.

But she revealed that she sent Mr Lewis a wife, a house, a £30 bouquet from Interflora on the day her husband was sacked with a simple message: Love and prayers. "For which thought I was bawled out by Mr Howard," she said.

In an interview with *The Times*, the unmarried Miss Widdecombe flatly rejected the assertion in press reports yesterday that her head had been turned by Mr Lewis's gifts of flowers, chocolates and private dinners.

"Apart from the fact it is not true, it is extremely patronising to assume that a 49-year-old spinster is vulnerable to such blandishments," she said. "I wonder if they would have said such things about a 40-year-old bachelor."

Mr Lewis said in a statement last night that at no time while he was in office had he sent Miss Widdecombe flowers or had her to dinner. He



Lewis: bouquet came from wife and him

said that on two occasions over a year after he left the prison, Mr Lewis and his wife Louise sent flowers to her. The statement added that he had not dined with her until after he left the service.

Miss Widdecombe will see Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, tomorrow to seek permission to make a personal statement on the floor of the Commons. She would use the occasion to accuse Mr Howard of misleading Parliament in the Commons debate over Mr Lewis's sacking in October 1995.

Asked why she had waited 18 months to accuse Mr Howard of misleading the Commons, she replied: "I only realised in February when I read Derek Lewis's book about his time at the prison service. Something fell into place."

Miss Widdecombe said that in February Mr Lewis delivered a copy of the book, *Hidden Agendas*, about his

period at the prison service, to her home. "He also gave me a small bunch of flowers. I suspect he bought them at a petrol station. He was on his way to a family lunch."

As for being wooed with chocolates, she said: "Nobody, especially my friends, woo me with chocolate. They have too much respect for the width of my figure."

In a new twist Peter Lilley, who Miss Widdecombe is supporting for the leadership, publicly dissociated himself from Mr Howard's former deputy. He said: "I am not prepared to have as a member of my team anybody who publicly criticises a fellow candidate."

As the controversy once again engulfed the leadership campaign, Mr Howard denied that his team was behind the black propaganda about Miss Widdecombe, which appeared in yesterday's *Daily Mail*.

Unnamed "insiders" were quoted as saying she had opposed Mr Howard's decision to sack Mr Lewis in October 1995, after lapses in prison security, because he "flattered her vanity". The insider added: "He sent her flowers and took her to dinner. I don't think she was used to that, poor girl."

A hunt was under way yesterday to discover the culprit responsible for triggering the black propaganda war. The key liaison figure with the media in Mr Howard's troubled leadership camp is Tim Collins, a rising star of the party, who is well versed in the black art of unattributable



POLITICAL CHIC
Why French women MPs are more glamorous
PAGE 16



HOMES OF THE FUTURE
12-PAGE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



Widdecombe yesterday: "Patronising to assume that a 49-year-old spinster is vulnerable to such blandishments"

press briefings. Mr Collins, 33, has been deployed around the House of Commons press gallery as the rapid response unit to the Widdecombe allegations.

"Politics can get dirty," Miss Widdecombe said yesterday, "but the suggestion I became too close to Derek Lewis is a disgusting lie and demonstrable smear. I was rarely alone with Mr Lewis."

She added: "There is something about the night about Michael. Our relationship became so difficult in the end that I had to raise my pencil to try to ensure I was called at departmental meetings."

As the insults flew thick and fast Mr Howard in turn effectively accused Miss Widdecombe of lying. He told the BBC: "My colleagues in the parliamentary party will look at these allegations and will judge them for what they are worth. There is no truth in them whatever."

Mr Howard's showdown with the prisons director came in October 1995. He sacked Mr Lewis after the completion of General Sir John Latham's report into the escape of inmates from Parkhurst jail in January of the same year. The decision reduced Miss Widdecombe to tears.

The night before the dismissal she spoke on the telephone to Mr Wilson the Permanent Secretary. Resignation was on her mind. "I told him I was going to buy a cat and issue a press statement saying: 'I am going to spend more time with it.'"

Mr Wilson allegedly played on Miss Widdecombe's loyalty to the Prime Minister by telling her that to quit would let down John Major.

Whoever was responsible for the attacks on Miss Widdecombe, the verdict of most Tory MPs yesterday was that Mr Howard was the biggest loser.



"Delivery for a Mr Howard"

Mobile phone users face new charges

By Jill Sherman
Chief Political Correspondent

MOBILE phone users and cab drivers face higher charges for using the radio airwaves under new Bill to be announced in today's Queen's Speech.

The proposals, which are expected to raise more than £1 billion over ten years, will open the airwaves to market forces for the first time and lead to higher charges in busy areas.

Under the Wireless, Telegraphy and Radio Spectrum Bill users, who include radio pager owners, will be charged according to how congested the airwaves are in the areas they choose to use.

Downing Street sources indicated that the additional costs could be the equivalent of 20p a week per car for minicabs and 10p a week for mobile phone users.

Although the price rises are small, officials point out that millions of people would have to pay the extra charge. The sources also said that initially 80 per cent of current users were unlikely to be affected.

Work on the new Bill had begun under the last administration and was the subject of a White Paper last June.

The Queen's Speech will be topped by two education Bills, a referendum Bill for a Scottish Parliament and a Welsh Assembly, and a Bill to introduce a national minimum wage.

The speech will also include a Bill to encourage a huge injection of private sector cash into the NHS. Ministers want to extend the areas where private cash is used as part of joint private and public sector projects to cover services for the mentally ill, GP surgeries and possibly radiotherapy and pathology services.

Cabinet list, page 10

School to pay for race abuse

A leading independent school has agreed to pay compensation and apologise to a pupil from an Asian background who was racially abused by fellow students.

The Dame Allan's School in Newcastle upon Tyne will pay £5,000 in damages and costs to Hytham Hamad, after being threatened with court action. Page 3

Opera chief quits after four months

Genista McIntosh has resigned as chief executive of the Royal Opera House after only four months because of a stress-related illness.

Mary Allen, currently the secretary-general of the Arts Council of England, will take her place. Page 5
Rodney Milnes, page 33

Irving The Times overseas
Australia \$3.50; Belgium 8 Frs 100;
Canada \$3.50; Canada Post 325;
Denmark 11.50; Denmark Dkr 18.00;
Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 16.00;
Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p;
Ireland Ir£ 5.50; Netherlands Fl 5.50;
Italy L 4.50; Luxembourg L 80;
Netherlands Esc 350; Niala 450;
Morocco Dir 27.00; Norway Kr 20.00;
Portugal Esc 350; Spain Ptas 325;
Sweden Skr 16.50; Switzerland S Frs 5.00; Tunisia Din 2.200; USA \$3.50.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORDS 24, 48

Bank signals mortgage rise

By Alasdair Murray

THE Bank of England yesterday confronted homeowners with the prospect of rising mortgage costs in the next few months by making clear that it is ready to use its newly acquired powers to raise interest rates.

The City is predicting that rates could rise from the current 6.25 per cent to as high as 7 per cent by the end of the year. A three-quarter point rise in rates would mean homeowners paying about £40 a month more on an average £50,000 mortgage.

The bank said in its *Quarterly Inflation Report*, the first since it won operational independence, that a "modest tightening" of rates is needed

to avoid overshooting the Government's inflation target. But the report also hinted that the Bank wants to see rates rise in the mini-budget, expected on June 10, to help to take pressure off the soaring pound.

The bank points out that further rate rises would "worsen the imbalance" between the manufacturing sector, which is losing exports because of the strong pound, and the booming service sector.

The hawkish tone of the bank's comments took the City by surprise, prompting the stock market to fall back from a new record high while the pound finished strongly up on the day.

But there is confusion over the possible timing of any rate increases. The four new members of the bank's monetary policy committee, which will set interest rates each month, have not yet been appointed and may disagree with the Bank's analysis.

The first meeting of the new committee is expected ahead of the Budget, but no date has been set.

The bank described last week's quarter-point rise in base rates to 6.25 per cent as an "appropriate step in the right direction". It also welcomed Gordon Brown's reforms, which have given the bank the power to set interest rates.

Britain is set to rejoin Unesco

By Michael Binyon and Susan Bell

BRITAIN is to rejoin Unesco, the United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organisation, 12 years after quitting the Paris-based body in protest at mismanagement and corruption.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, made the announcement in Paris during a visit to the Western European Union. Britain's application will be formally unveiled tomorrow in the Queen's Speech, but has already been warmly welcomed by Federico Mayor, Unesco's Director-General. The cost is estimated at £11 million a year.

The objections levelled principally by Western countries to the running of Unesco were directed especially at the former Director-General, Amadou M'bow, who was accused of cronyism, financial irresponsibility and orchestrating an anti-Western campaign. Britain, America and Singapore left; so far America has given no sign of rejoining.

Señor Mayor, who took over after Mr M'bow was ousted, promised to reform the organisation and cut back waste. British officials yesterday said that he had made good progress in doing so.

Italians pay tribute to Ernie Foster of Portsmouth

By Alan Hamilton

ROME has its Piazza Victor Emmanuel and Venice its Piazza San Marco. But in the small Italian village of Suio, the main square is about to be renamed the Piazza Ernest Foster.

Italy, being short on 20th century heroes, usually names its streets after kings and saints, or household historic names like Dante, Verdi and Garibaldi. There has been a recent rash of street-naming after Giovanni Falcone, the anti-Mafia judge who was blown up. He is now joined in the municipal pantheon by Ernie from Portsmouth.



Ernest Foster, the caring soldier, and the Italian village plaque that honours his bravery



Private Foster, who died five years ago, was with the 5th Hampshire Regiment in 1944, when the Allied invasion of Italy reached Suio, a village in the Aurunci mountains near

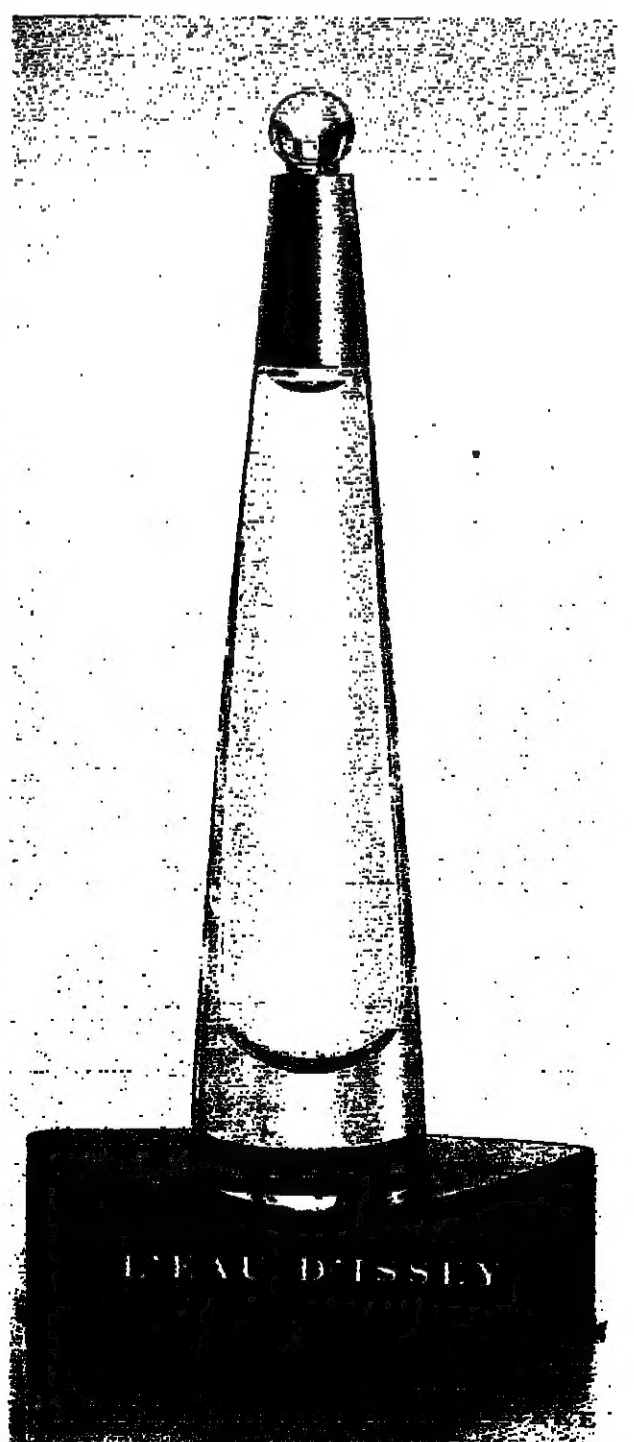
the town of Castellorotondo, between Naples and Rome. During fierce fighting between Allied and German troops in the village square, he shielded a badly injured woman, who

the baby half a mile to the nearest British ambulance post and left him there, not knowing whether he would survive.

Alessandro Lefeno did live. Now aged 54 and a postal worker, he is preparing to welcome Private Foster's widow and children to a ceremony in Suio later this month.

At his Italian home yesterday he said: "Ernest was a brave man and his courage deserves to be recognised. The whole village knew what he did for me, and when some work was being carried out on the piazza, the council suggested naming it after him. He

Continued on page 2, col 5



Blair would be wise not to ride roughshod over Parliament

THE Government is showing worrying signs of triumphalism. Tony Blair was widely praised a week ago for telling Labour MPs that "we are not the masters. We are the servants of the people." But not all his ministers are behaving in this spirit. Some seem to be confusing their executive and their parliamentary roles.

The Government has started with a flourish, launching many fresh initiatives. Boldness has its risks, but ministers are entitled to make their mark quickly.

Gordon Brown has been criticised for making the Bank of England operationally responsible for setting interest rates without telling Parliament first, or obtaining its approval. But given that Mr Brown had to meet Eddie George, the Bank Governor, last week, there was a virtue in taking a quick decision. And the new monetary policy

framework will have to be approved by legislation, so Parliament will be involved. It is also reasonable for Mr Blair to impose a clear strategic framework on Government — to see that manifesto pledges are fulfilled and not undermined by the pressure of events. The problem is over attitudes to Parliament.

Some ministers view MPs as primarily lobby fodder. That obviously suits executive-minded politicians. On the

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

BBC's *On the Record* on Sunday, Peter Mandelson stated bluntly: "Labour Members of Parliament have been elected in order to carry out the manifesto for which we have received an overwhelming mandate from the public."

Mr Mandelson has a point, since Labour's primary task is to show it can be trusted in government, and this imposes

a responsibility on Labour MPs not to "impede or present barriers to the implementation of our manifesto". But to claim that the manifesto is "binding" on Labour MPs is an oversimplification.

Manifestos are not perfect and MPs have a duty to see whether Bills can be improved. Labour has rightly proposed improvements in the

way Bills are scrutinised. That means that Labour MPs cannot just be unquestioning supporters of the Government. Ministers have also been rather high-handed over the reform of Prime Minister's Questions, announcing the switch from two sessions a week to one without consultation. This is not just a matter for the Government, as Mr Mandelson suggested on Sunday. The organisation of Question Time is also a matter

for the Commons. The Procedure Committee report of July 1995 specifically rejected the idea of one 30-minute session per week and focused on an experiment to replace open questions by substantive ones.

Ann Taylor has said that a new special Select Committee to review parliamentary procedures will shortly be set up and will consider further changes to Question Time, including PM's Questions. It would have been better for the

change in timing to be referred to such a committee. Mr Blair has all the cards at present. But he should not overplay them. He would be wise to be conciliatory when he addresses the Commons this afternoon — both to fulfill his pledge to create a new non-trial, open style of politics and to show his Government is not riding roughshod over Parliament.

PETER RIDDELL

Catholic man murdered in renewed cycle of violence

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ULSTER has returned to the nightmare of tit-for-tat sectarian murders for the first time in three years, with three men dead in as many weeks.

A Roman Catholic man was abducted from a Gaelic Athletic Association club in Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, late on Monday night and shot by loyalists. The murder followed the shooting of a policeman last Friday and the death of a Catholic man last week.

The attacks have horrified political leaders. In the last wave of such attacks in June 1994, six Catholic men were gunned down by loyalists in a country pub in Co Down as they watched the football World Cup. The Ulster Volunteer Force murdered the men purely because they were Catholics, after republicans murdered two Protestants in the Shankill Road.

In the attack on Monday night, Sean Brown, who was married, with six children, was seized by the terrorists as he locked up his GAA club in the village. During a violent struggle, Mr Brown, who was chairman of the club and a pillar of the local community, suffered serious head injuries. He was bundled into his own car. His body was found near the burnt-out remains of his car in Randalstown, Co Antrim, early yesterday.

The carefully orchestrated killing of Mr Brown indicates that he was murdered by one of three loyalist terrorist groups — the Ulster Volunteer Force, the Ulster Defence Association, or the newly-formed Loyalist Volunteer Force.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern

Ireland Secretary, yesterday held talks with the two political parties with links to the UVF and UDA. Speaking after the meeting, Adam Ingram, the Northern Ireland security minister, said that he believed that the loyalist ceasefire was still in place, although he added that ministers would subject the ceasefire to serious analysis. He condemned the murder of Mr Brown as horrific.

Dr Seamus Hegarty, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry, described the murder as "vicious and godless".

Archbishop Robin Eames, the Primate of the Church of Ireland, gave a grim warning of the dangers of sectarianism during an address to the General Synod of the church in Dublin. "This is another example of the depths to which this community has sunk. People are talking about a descending curve of sectarianism," he said.

He said such attacks were "totally, totally wrong". Friends last night paid tribute to Mr Brown. Harry Chivers, a member of the GAA's South Derry Committee, said: "Sean was a genuine family man. He put his heart and soul into the club, he gave it his all. He was a mild-mannered man who didn't get into arguments with people."

Mr Chivers last spoke to Mr Brown on the pitch in Clones, Co Monaghan, on Sunday after the Derry under-21 team won the All-Ireland final.

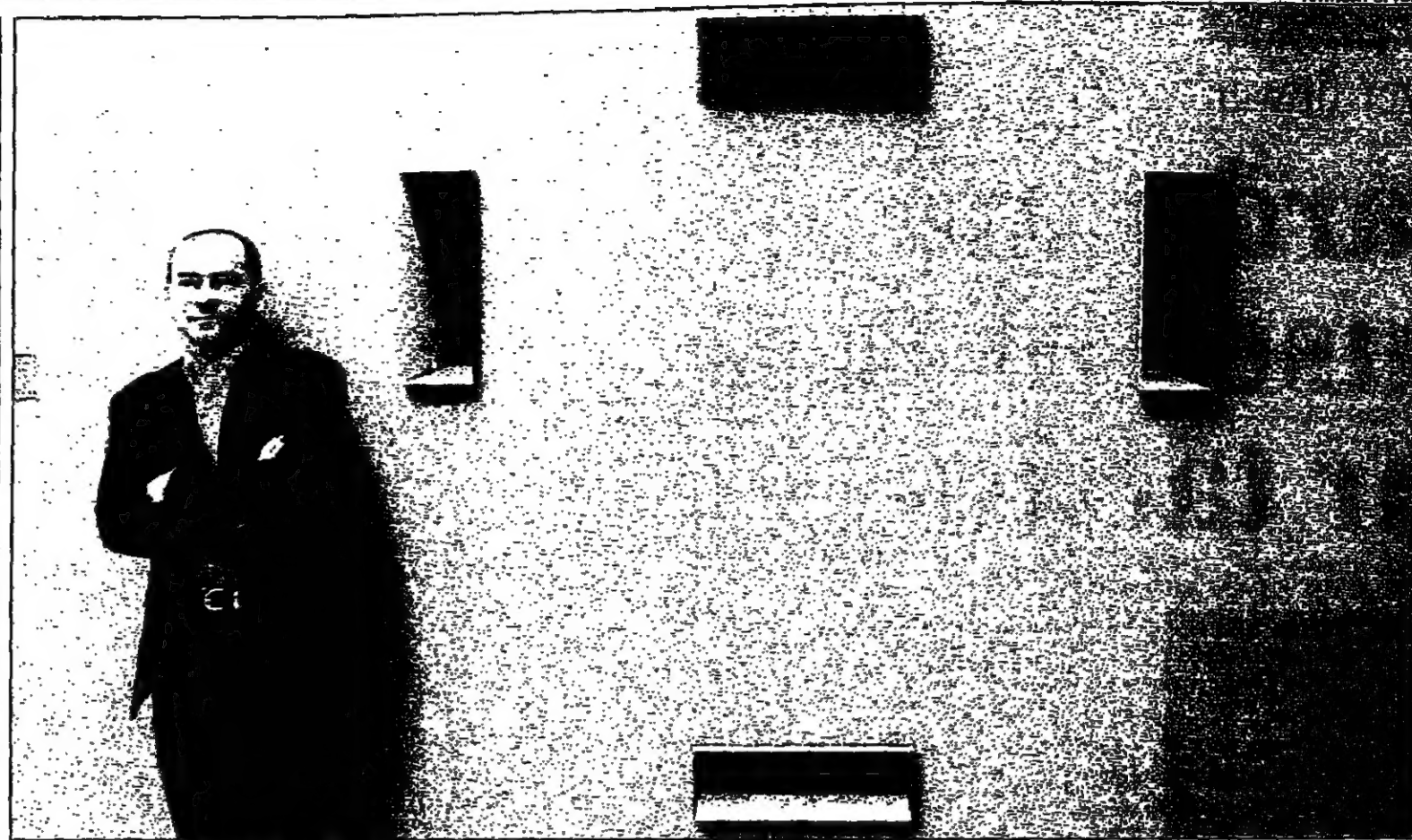
As detectives in Randalstown began investigation into Mr Brown's murder, the funeral took place a few miles away in Antrim of Darren Bradshaw, the RUC constable who was shot dead at point blank range on Friday night by the Irish National Liberation Army in a bar in Belfast.

Armed police are standing guard in a hospital in the Irish Republic where a suspected terrorist was receiving treatment after a botched bomb attack in Northern Ireland. The man was admitted to the Sligo General Hospital shortly after an incident in Belfast last week, when only the detonator of a Semtex device went off.

He fled across the border into the Irish Republic where he is being treated for serious burns.



Brown, chairman of sports club



Max Moscrop with four of the abstract paintings that have won him the £26,000 NatWest Art Prize, the country's biggest. Mr Moscrop, 34, who trained as an architect, received the award at the Ladbury Gallery in the City of London. He was chosen from a shortlist of 11 young painters, including seven women. They were whittled down from 700 entries for the competition, which unlike the Turner Prize, focuses exclusively on painting and is awarded to artists

Artist draws on training as architect to win prize

under 35 who live or work in Britain. Last night, Mr Moscrop, from Ormskirk, Lancashire, who is studying at the Royal Academy, said: "It's not really sunk in yet but it will be great to help me set up my own

studio." Rosemary Harris, one of the judges and curator of the NatWest Group Art Collection, said they were impressed with the way Mr Moscrop had drawn on his architectural background and had found his paintings

innovative. "We had a really impressive selection of entries, with both abstract and figurative work, but Max is a worthy winner," she said. "The exceptional quality of the work submitted this year is a real sign of the much heralded revival of painting in the 1990s." The ten runners-up received £1,000 each and all 11 have works exhibited in the new Ladbury gallery, opened in the former banking hall of the City headquarters of NatWest.

Blair defies Lords on handgun ban

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR said yesterday that he would override the House of Lords if it tried to stand in the way of Labour's plans to introduce a complete ban on handguns.

The Prime Minister met parents of children who died at Dunblane and told them that, if peers rejected the legislation, as some have threatened, he would invoke the Parliament Act to force it through next year. Under the Act a Bill that has been defeated in the Lords can be reintroduced after 12 months and pushed through, with peers powerless to intervene a second time.

Mr Blair told the parents that Labour would have no hesitation in doing that, "if the worst happened" in the Lords. He was clearly using the visit of the Dunblane group on the eve of the Queen's Speech to fire a warning shot at the Upper House. In addition,

Downing Street sources indicated that the Bill to deprive hereditary peers of voting rights was likely to be introduced in autumn next year.

The decision to go beyond the firearms legislation introduced by the Tories after Dunblane and bring in a complete ban as soon as possible was Mr Blair's. It remains highly unlikely that the Lords would — even in perhaps the last year before their own future is transformed — turn down a Bill that appeared in the Labour manifesto and which had been passed by the Commons.

The Advertising Standards Authority said yesterday that it would not succumb to pressure from pro-gun lobby groups. The warning follows the arrival last month of 80 near-identical letters of complaint about an anti-handgun advertisement funded by the Snowdrop campaign.

Ernie the hero

Continued from page 1
was a great man and I owe him my life." Private Foster visited Suo several times after the war, and was a popular figure.

His widow Sylvia, 68, said yesterday: "The Germans were on one side of the piazza and Ern and the English were on the other firing at each other, when this woman ran across the square and got badly wounded. She fell to the ground and Ern ran up to try to help her. He tried to move her but couldn't. As she breathed her last breath her shawl fell open, and he saw she was holding a baby boy."

Mrs Foster said that, after taking the baby to a field station, he returned and managed to find the father, who gave him a battered and broken St Christopher necklace, which Ern treasured and kept with his medals for the rest of his life.

Mr Foster tracked down the baby — by then aged 46 — during a visit to Italy in 1986. The families became friends, and Mr Lefano attended Ern's funeral in 1992.

Lilley and Dorrell urge party revamp

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

PETER LILLEY supported calls yesterday for party activists to have a vote in future Tory leadership elections.

The former Social Security Secretary also tried to enhance his claims to be the unity candidate in the present leadership contest by emphasising that his opposition to the European single currency applied to the lifetime of the present Parliament and not necessarily forever.

Both Mr Lilley and Stephen Dorrell, the former Health Secretary, put a revamp of party organisation at the centre of their campaign efforts. Mr Lilley said: "The decay of our organisation was a key factor which contributed to the scale of our defeat."

We will only win if we invigorate the party. We can only attract young, energetic, intelligent people to our party if we are going to involve them in it. They've got to feel they are

involved in rather more than the colour of the balloons at the Conservative fete."

He called for a national register of members to be drawn up to enable more direct communication between the party at Westminster and its supporters in the constituencies. But he said it was no possible to do so in time to give all members a vote in this contest.

Mr Dorrell promised, if elected, to review the way the party worked — including the system by which it elects a leader. In a letter to constituency party chairmen he said the overhaul needed to include the operation of Conservative Central Office, candidate selection and "internal party discipline". He said: "One inescapable lesson of our general election defeat is that, for the first time, our opponents were better organised and more disciplined."

Nepal boy claim

The Nepalese boy whose deportation order was overturned by the Home Secretary Jack Straw will go to the High Court today to fight for an estimated £20,000 in costs from the Government. Jaya Ram Khadka's adoptive English father, Richard Morley, said it was a "matter of principle" that the courts should award costs.

Riders' truce

Twenty women became the first lady riders in more than 60 years to join Hawick Common Riding. They were outnumbered two to one by men, but their participation in the 26-mile cross-country ride, accompanied by a strong police presence, marked a truce in the year-long dispute with the Lady Riders' Association over the men-only rule.

War no longer priority, says Robertson

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE new Defence Secretary, George Robertson, indicated yesterday that he saw peacekeeping, not fighting wars, as the priority for the Armed Forces.

It was important to have the "most appropriate defence" for the country, and one problem that no longer needed to be taken into account was "a general war in Europe", he said. "The problems faced are

peacekeeping in Bosnia, the evacuation of national personnel in Zaire and a whole series of other conflicts all over the world that are very different from the past," he said on BBC Radio 4's *Today*.

The Government will announce a six-month strategic defence review in the Queen's Speech today. It will involve the Foreign Office and the Treasury as well as the Ministry of Defence, and Mr Robertson is also expected to ask experts from the industrial

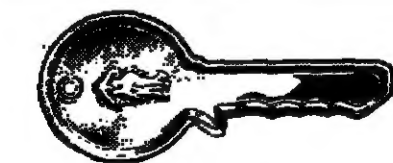
and academic worlds to participate in the review.

Mr Robertson said the review would not be "Treasury-run", and indicated an intention to maintain spending at the present level, about £21.8 billion. But he said the review would be "all-embracing" and will try to build a national consensus about what the country needs.

The expectation among the Armed Forces was that the review will lead to a reduction in commitments that will

bring budget savings. There was particular alarm among the sole surviving overseas-based armoured division, which is in Germany.

Forces chiefs are expected to use the argument put to the previous Government that, despite the changed world, it is still vital to train and equip the Services for high-intensity wars. "You can peacekeep if you have trained for war, but you can't fight a war if you have only trained to peacekeep," a source said.



THE GOLDEN KEY
TO YOUR NEW MORTGAGE
- YOU COULD WIN
£50,000

Visit your local branch or phone Abbey National
Direct for details of the prize draw.

To find out more,
simply pop into
your local branch or
phone Abbey National
Direct on:
0800 100 800
quoting reference A492E/10.

A WHOLE RANGE OF
MORTGAGES
TO SUIT YOUR PERSONAL
REQUIREMENTS.



ABBEY NATIONAL
www.abbeynational.co.uk

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT
KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE
OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

There are options Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm. To make use of this service we may need to contact you. Secured loans and mortgages require a charge on the property and in the case of an endowment mortgage an endowment/life policy for the amount of the advance and a charge over the policy. All loans subject to normal valuation and are not available to persons under 18 years of age. Written quotations are available on request. Abbey National plc, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority, only sells its own life assurance, pension and unit trust products. Abbey National and the Abbey National logo are trademarks of Abbey National plc. Abbey House, Silver Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom.

Staff 'ignored violent bullying' Private school in race payout to abused pupil

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A LEADING independent school yesterday agreed to pay compensation and apologise to a pupil who was racially abused by fellow students.

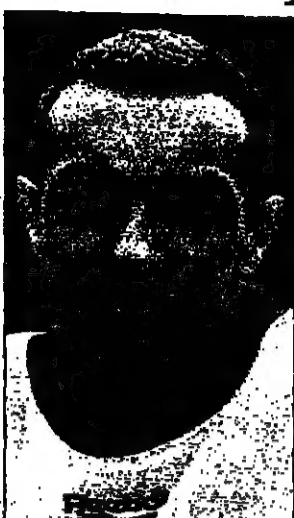
The Dame Allan's School in Newcastle upon Tyne has agreed to pay £4,000 in damages and a similar amount in costs to Hytham Hamad, the son of a hospital consultant, after being threatened with a High Court action.

Yesterday, after the agreed settlement was announced, Hytham, whose father is Asian, said that the abuse had become more frequent and severe as he rose through the school. A complaint by his father was ignored and at one point, he claimed, staff had stood by while older boys kicked him around a playing field.

When he finally retaliated and punched one of the sixth-formers who had been abusing him, he was accused of making trouble and was suspended. A letter describing him as "dangerous" was sent to parents and his family was told to remove him or see him expelled. After his parents agreed to remove him, they decided to take action against the £3,783-a-year day school.

Hytham, now 18, is completing his A-level studies at a state college near his home in Sunderland, and hopes to study medicine. He said: "I could not take any more and knew if I did not act to try and stop it it would go on forever. I decided to make a stand, so I attacked a sixth-former who had been abusing me."

"I hate violence but I had suffered months of daily abuse. I had suffered the occasional remark from my first days but I shrugged it off. It



Hytham Hamad: hopes to study medicine

was only when I reached the fourth form that it became a serious problem.

"About seven sixth-formers started calling me 'Blacky' and 'Nigger'. I was never called by name. They made me stand at the back of the lunch queue and I was always being given extra lunchtime duties. They would barge into me and push me around whenever they got the chance.

"One day the gang grabbed me and dragged me onto the pitch. They started kicking snow all over me and then began kicking me as well. My glasses were smashed and my lip was cut. Teachers saw what happened and asked me if I was all right but no action was taken against them.

"I couldn't concentrate in class and got up every morning knowing the treatment I was going to get as soon as I arrived at school."

His father, Ahmed, 53, said:

"We did not expect to find an intimidating atmosphere of racial bullying at a place like Dame Allan. I felt the discipline at a public school with such a high reputation would be so much better than that."

"Hytham bottled up his feelings for a long time before he finally told us what was happening to him. I was shocked and appalled. When he snapped and defended himself he was suspended indefinitely, when the people who had put him through all that abuse escaped without so much as a warning."

Hytham's mother, Eileen, 53, who is white, said: "Hytham has come through it and feels it might have made him a better person." Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, which backed the case, welcomed the apology.

In a statement, David Welsh, the school's principal, said: "Since joining here last September I have not seen any evidence of the tensions or strains of three years ago. This settlement draws a line under those events and has enabled the school to recognise the need to address major issues such as equal opportunities."

"The settlement included a letter of apology to the Hamad family from the governors. The letter intended to show it had always been our intention to act in an impartial and even-handed manner in respect of the incident which happened in January 1994. The school accepts, with hindsight, there were shortcomings and failings in the manner in which investigations were undertaken."

There were now new procedures to deal with racist abuse or bullying.



Mrs Shreeve with her Yorkshire terrier after she paid £100 for its return. "I was lucky because I got Fudge back."

Family pay ransom for pedigree pet

A FAMILY had to pay a £100 ransom for the safe return of their pedigree puppy after it was stolen from their front garden.

The seven-month old Yorkshire terrier, Fudge, whose ancestors include a Cruik's champion, was held by his captors for a week. It is thought he was stolen to be bred: pedigree Yorkshire terrier puppies usually sell for around £200.

The dog's distraught owner, Maria Shreeve, put up posters of her pet all around Norwich after he went missing. After a week, in which Mrs Shreeve believes Fudge was probably bred at least three times, the ransom demand came.

"The phone never stopped ringing with sightings, and two days later the woman came round and said she knew where Fudge was," Mrs Shreeve said.

"She gave us the address and we told the police. They went round to the house where Fudge was supposed to be, but he had obviously been hidden away. We did not see

the woman again until the following Saturday, when she came round to say that she could get Fudge for £100."

Mrs Shreeve, 30, and her husband Mark, 28, a mechanic, were appalled by the demand and at first refused.

"But then this woman said that if we did not pay up we would never see Fudge again. We scraped together all the money we had, borrowed some, and made up the ransom with all the coppers we could find. But I said 'how do we know that we will get Fudge back?' In the end we gave this woman £50 and said she could have the rest when she came back with Fudge. It was taking a risk but we had no choice."

Twenty minutes later the woman arrived back at the house in Mile Cross with Fudge, and the other £50 was handed over. "To be honest I

was so pleased to have Fudge back, I didn't care about anything else. I have spoiled him rotten since," said Mrs Shreeve, a care assistant.

"He had obviously been bred and we took him to a vet who confirmed that. He was whining and he had never done that before. If he has been bred three times the people who took him have obviously done all right out of it. That is why they relented and gave him back."

Mrs Shreeve bought Fudge for £150 pounds after replying to an advert from a reputable breeder.

She said: "I was lucky because I got Fudge back, but I am sure there could be other people who will lose their pets."

She now plans to have Fudge electronically tagged for identification and castrated to prevent him being stolen for breeding purposes.

A spokesman for Norfolk police said: "We would encourage anyone faced with a similar situation to contact us immediately."

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS DOG?
"FUDGE"



The poster that the Shreeves put up around Norwich

Warning to golf lovers who eat their greens

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS have identified a new hazard for golfers — golf ball liver. It has nothing to do with spending too long at the 19th but a lot to do with lining up a putt on the greens.

The first known victim of what is medically known as "agent orange hepatitis" is Michael Burke, 76, former captain of the Rosses Point Club in Sligo, Ireland.

"I used to play every day but I had to stop when I got tired and terribly ill," he said yesterday. "I am not testy, but I am certainly not a heavy drinker and I had not been abroad where I could have caught hepatitis. It was a mystery until the hospital sent a sample for analysis at a laboratory where they specialise in poisons. They discovered that the trouble was caused by a weedkiller."

"It was then that I remembered I had got into the habit of wetting the ball on my tongue to clean it on the greens. The golf club uses a selective weedkiller, especially on the greens, and I had been licking it off in small quantities and swallowing it."

The weedkiller was 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, an ingredient of the defoliant known as Agent Orange which was used by US forces in Vietnam.

The case history appears today in *Gut*, a specialist publication issued by the *British Medical Journal*. Written by the victim's son, Dr Conor Burke, of James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Dublin, it says that "golf ball liver is a definite clinical entity and golfers should beware."

Mr Burke contracted the condition ten years ago and has recovered. When he returned to the greens he used a damp cloth instead of his tongue.

Servicemen face cane for 'robbery'

BY ANDREW DRUMMOND, IN THAILAND, AND ADRIAN LEE

TWO British servicemen could face at least 12 strokes of the cane in Singapore and 14 years in prison for allegedly robbing a taxi driver.

Royal Marine Richard Britten, 22, and helicopter mechanic John King, 20, were on shore leave from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel *Galahad* after spending a month on jungle exercises when they were arrested in the early hours of the morning.

The incident, the second in the Far East this month involving soldiers from the Royal Marines, has infuriated their commanding officers. A Royal Marines source said yesterday: "We are not treating this as a minor incident."

The soldiers, who could be dismissed from the service if found guilty, were warned during briefings before leaving England to observe local customs and laws. Before going on leave they were reminded that Singapore was particularly strict. They were among thousands of army and navy personnel taking part in a major deployment in the Far East, codenamed Ocean Wave.

The men left Britain in January and were due home in August after exercises in

Thailand, Brunei, Singapore and Malaysia.

Details of the incident, at 3.40am on May 3, were vague, said a MoD spokesman who refused to name the men's units or give any personal details. They appeared in court on Monday accused of stealing 43 Singapore dollars — about £19 — from taxi driver Tong Chin Huat, 53, in a western suburb of the city state. No pleas were taken and the soldiers will reappear on May 20. Army sources said there was no suggestion that any violence was used.

The pair were being held at the Queenstown Remand Centre after failing to provide £4,000 for bail. King is on a two-year attachment to the Marines from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, while Swindon-born Britten was based at Yeovilton, in Somerset.

The corporal punishment is carried out on bare buttocks by a martial arts expert wielding a four foot rattan cane. The victim is routinely left unable to sit for several months and is scarred for life. The caning is so ferocious that the rattan, which is soaked in antiseptic, normally splits after three strokes.



Kirsty: murder inquiry

Girl's body is found in Thames

POLICE launched a murder investigation yesterday after the decapitated body of Kirsty Tidman, 14, was pulled from the Thames. She was identified by jewellery.

Kirsty vanished on May 4 from her home at Charlton, south London. Her parents last week appealed publicly for help in finding her and begged whoever had taken their daughter to let her go. Her body was spotted in the river early yesterday near Wapping in Docklands.

Last week Kirsty's cousin, Paul Pearson, 30, from Abbey Wood, south London, killed himself after being questioned by police. He had denied any involvement in her disappearance.

Paralysed Superman star says he has regained 'some feeling'

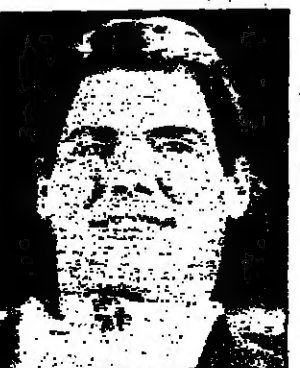
FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

CHRISTOPHER REEVE has astonished his doctors by revealing that he has regained "some feeling" in his arms, hands and back.

Mr Reeve, the former film Superman, was paralysed from the neck down two years ago after he was thrown by a horse. His tragedy drew pity from around the world, turning him into a worldwide ambassador for the disabled.

That tenacity, it seems, has paid off. In a television programme to be shown by CBS here tomorrow, Mr Reeve discloses that he has sensation "all the way down to the base of my spine, which is really a breakthrough because six months ago I couldn't feel down there."

Doctors had told him only recently that his injury was "definitive" and that there would be no further recovery.



Reeve: inner strength has helped, say doctors

Harlan Weinberg, who has been treating the actor, told the *New York Post* that the news was "phenomenal". Dr Weinberg said: "He has an incredible inner strength and more personal drive than any individual I've met. That has a lot to do with it."

Mr Reeve also tells the interviewer that his progress is momentous because he can

once more feel the touch of his five-year-old son. Will: "I can feel his hand on mine. ... The thing I want more, though, is to be able to put my arms around him. And I believe that day is coming."

Christopher Reeve's determination to overcome his disability has been rewarded (Dr Thomas Stuttaford writes). If the spinal cord is completely severed regeneration does not occur. But prognosis is a very inexact art and doctors are unwise to be too definite about an outcome in any case until many months have elapsed.

Having even a limited sense of touch is an invaluable way of creating and maintaining emotional bonds within a family.

But as yet there seems to be little or no recent recovery in Mr Reeve's muscle power. Any real improvement in physical activity must at this stage be considered very unlikely.

AST: The Next Step in Multimedia

at a SCREEN

ASCENTIA (A SERIES)

Experience the true potential of multimedia with AST's new Ascentia A notebook. With full multimedia features married to a massive SVGA screen and MPEG software, the Ascentia A allows you to view even full length movies in smooth, full screen splendour. Competitively-priced and with one year's ExeCare* — AST's 24 hour Europe-wide repair or replacement service — the Ascentia A will move your mobile computing into another universe.



ExeCare

In addition to a worldwide warranty, AST offer one year of ExeCare on their Ascentia notebooks. ExeCare is a support service that offers either a replacement unit delivered anywhere in Europe within 24 hours or the owner's notebook repaired within 24 hours. See ExeCare leaflet for further details, terms and conditions.

- Intel 120MHz Pentium® processor
- SVGA 12.1" Active-Matrix or 11.3" Dual Scan colour screen
- Integrated 6X CD ROM drive
- 16MB RAM standard, expandable to 32MB
- 1GB hard drive
- 16-bit audio, stereo speakers and microphone
- Smartway for CD ROM drive or 3.5" floppy drive
- Microsoft® Windows® 95 preloaded
- Mini-docker and connectivity options available

For a close encounter with the Ascentia A, call the AST Information Service on:

0990 611 811

or fax on: 01753 712883

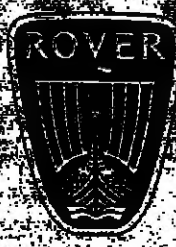
*See ExeCare leaflet for details. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. AST and the AST logo are registered trademarks of AST Research, Inc. Intel, the Intel Inside logo, and the Pentium Processor logo are registered trademarks of the Intel Corporation. Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation. All other trademarks are recognized.

THE ENERGY TO BREAK THROUGH

AST

"A ROVER 200 FOR £9,995? WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IN MY DAY!"

What day was that then?
Rovers have always cost less than most people think. Take the Rover 214 shown here. A sure-footed,
agile, elegant Rover for just £9,995* on the road.
Call 0345 186 186 for details, or visit your local Rover dealer.



RELAX

*MANUFACTURERS' RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICE. MODEL SHOWN ROVER 214 £9,995. PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. INCLUDES 12 MONTHS ROAD TAX, DELIVERY TO DEALER, PREMISES AND NUMBER PLATES SUBJECT TO VEHICLE AVAILABILITY.

Royal

...takes
stage to
theatre
and drink

Hisley cele
his Mach

Royal Opera chief resigns after four months



McIntosh: resignation

By CAROL MIDDLEY

GENISTA MCINTOSH has resigned as chief executive of the Royal Opera House after only four months in the job because of a stress-related illness, it was announced yesterday.

Mary Allen, currently the secretary-general of the Arts Council of England, will take the place of Ms McIntosh, 50, who took over from Sir Jeremy Isaacs in January.

Keith Cooper, spokesman for the Royal Opera House, declined to elaborate on the nature of Ms McIntosh's illness but said: "It is not a life-threatening illness, but it is such that she does not feel that she

can do the job without being in the best of health and having a lot of stamina." He added that the chief executive's was "an extremely complex and demanding job", managing 800 employees and an annual turnover of £57 million.

Ms McIntosh has been at Covent Garden during a period of turmoil: the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet are soon to leave Covent Garden for two-and-a-half years while a £214 million renovation is carried out. They will perform at other venues including the Festival Hall, the Albert Hall and the Barbican.

The Earl of Gowrie, the chairman of the Arts Council, has described the

plans for the absence from Covent Garden as "shambolic". Many star dancers are expected to quit. Recently backstage staff threatened industrial action over claims for working in temporary venues.

The announcement that Ms McIntosh had resigned because of illness was greeted with astonishment and scepticism among Covent Garden staff. There was speculation that there had been a falling-out between her and the chairman of the Royal Opera House, Lord Chadlington. The Opera House denied that there had been any rift.

Lord Chadlington said yesterday:

"Jenny has made, even in these very few months, an enormous contribution to the Royal Opera House. Her work on budgeting and programming for closure has been outstanding, and her leadership in setting a new agenda in preparation for the new theatre has done much to lift morale and provide a visionary focus for the management."

"I, and all my colleagues, wish her a speedy return to full health and much success and happiness in the future."

Miss Allen, who has worked as an actress and an arts management consultant but has no experience in running a leading theatre, is to head

the senior management throughout the closure period.

Lord Chadlington added: "We are all delighted that Mary Allen has been able to make such a quick decision. She is one of the best arts managers in the country and we are extremely fortunate that she is able to join the Royal Opera House just as it, too, embarks on a period of change."

Richard Hall, a partner of Binder Hamlyn, has been appointed director of finance at the Royal Opera House after a nine-month search. Lisa Burger, acting finance director, leaves in the summer.

Rodney Milnes, page 33



Allen: replacement

Boy, 9, takes the stage to save theatre from drink

By DAREN GREGORIAN

THE oratory of a boy aged nine helped to save a theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. Timothy James received applause from councillors and officials after he spoke out against a plan to convert the Waterside Theatre into a pub.

He learnt of the proposal when he attended a performance of *A Man for All Seasons* at the 120-seat theatre last month.

"I thought it was disgraceful that there should be a plan to turn the last independent theatre in Stratford into a pub," said Timothy, from Coventry.

He and his mother, Tammy, 36, were invited to a meeting of Stratford District Council's planning committee. The boy stood before the 11-strong committee and told them: "I object to this proposal because, although the Royal Shakespeare Company is an excellent theatre, not everyone can afford it. The Waterside is cheaper."

"It is the only proper theatre that local schools can hire for plays. If the theatre goes it will never come back and my children won't have the same chance that I had. Finally, aren't there enough pubs in Stratford already? Thank you." The recommendation to grant planning permission was defeated.

Timothy said yesterday: "I was nervous but I want to be an actor and so I bit my lip and walked in front of them. When only three people voted for the plan and it was turned down, I was very happy."

Geoffrey Lees, the councillor who tabled the motion to reject the plan, said he had been enthralled by the "brave young chap". "Timmy brought home to the committee the strength of feeling in the town."

The theatre thanked the boy and said: "he has a great future in front of him, as an actor or a politician".

Minister returns to the director's chair

Dalya Alberge in

Cannes meets a

former amateur

film-maker with

a political mission

BRITAIN'S first Minister for Film made a nostalgic return yesterday to the Cannes Film Festival, where more than two decades ago he entered a short film in the amateur festival.

In 1973 Tom Clarke tried to excite film-makers with *Give Us A Goal*, about football in Scotland. Yesterday the film-makers were coming to him. The Minister for Film and Tourism will be meeting dozens of them to discuss the Government's role in the industry.

Mr Clarke could not remember whether his film had been shown. This time things were different and he posed like a star on the sandy beach as he met the press.

He took the opportunity to attack the treatment by cinema of disabled people, whose cause had been his brief as a shadow minister. They were made to feel like lepers if they tried to see a film, he said. No wheelchairs, for example, were allowed in cinemas; fire regulations were conveniently blamed. Yet seven million people in Britain were disabled.

"I want to see access in every sense," Mr Clarke said. That meant everything from being able to see films to being employed in making and distributing them.

Mr Clarke said that he would devote himself to the

renaissance of the British film industry. "The success we've seen for British film has not been because of the Government, but in spite of them," he said, promising change.

This was passionate, fighting talk from a politician, something that film-makers have not heard for years. It was such a contrast to Stephen Dorrell, who will always be thought of as the Heritage Secretary who could not remember the last film he had seen.

Mr Clarke, the MP for Coatbridge and Chryston, says that the cinema is one of his earliest loves, and he is no stranger to the industry: he is a former governor of the British Film Institute and a former director of the Scottish Film Council.

At one film-maker's stand, where he was handed a video of an "action film", there was a plea for tax incentives for the film industry. "I like what

you're saying," he replied. "I do hear you."

His enthusiasm was making an impression. He also revealed a less-than-confident side rarely seen among politicians when, just after addressing the press, he whispered to his two aides: "Was I all right?"

Dolly the sheep and other cloned creatures are inspiring film-makers to conduct their own experiments with the subject. James Dudelson, a Hollywood producer-director, is at Cannes to launch *Morella*, based on an Edgar Allan Poe tale of a scientist who reproduces himself in a bizarre experiment with an embryo.

Mr Dudelson said that, while the scientist apparently succeeds in playing God with her own evolution, the moral is that "the soul cannot be cloned". Over the next couple years, audiences can expect numerous films cloned from the same idea.

They will include *Johnny 2.0*, starring Jeff Sahey, who appeared opposite Pierce Brosnan in *Lawnmower Man*. David Carson, vice-president of Zromark International, its Los Angeles producers, said that "cloning has become a very pertinent subject". His film centres on a scientist who is "a clone of a clone of a clone".



Tom Clarke at Cannes yesterday: he plans to work for the renaissance of British film

Thieving bibliophile is brought to book

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BOOK lover who could not bear seeing antiquarian volumes mouldering on shelves was unable to stop himself from stealing them to restore at home.

James Coleman, 66, stole 83 antiquarian books worth £12,000 from one country house alone. He took them in as animal lovers might adopt a stray. Swindon magistrates were told.

Coleman, a retired professional violinist, had taken books over eight years from Phillips House in south Wiltshire during annual music courses. He had also stolen books worth nearly £1,000 from other country houses, libraries and shops around the country.

Richard Griffiths, for the defence, said that, while Coleman had amassed most of his big collection legitimately, "unfortunately he could not look at an old book without feeling a need to care for it".

Many of the books at Phillips House were in a poor condition and it all started when he removed some for inspection. He had a number of them restored but then could not return them.

Mr Griffiths said: "The comparison is with the sort of person who comes across a stray dog that hasn't been cared for, takes it in, but then gets attached to it and realises that he shouldn't have taken it in the first place."

The thefts came to light when Coleman and his wife moved to a smaller house and tried to sell his entire collection through a dealer.

Coleman, of Lacock, Wiltshire, who admitted theft and deception, was fined £1,750. Some books had been recovered but he was ordered to pay £3,469 compensation to the National Trust, owner of Phillips House, and £3,555 to a bookseller and other losers.

Serenity finds peace at last in her subterranean world



Serenity: Cannes debut

DOWN in the basement of the main building of the festival, there is no glitter — just buyers and sellers, and photographs to entice the eye. This is where the porn industry does much of its multimillion-pound business (Dalya Alberge writes).

Stand after stand is lined with glossy pictures of women with bodies so exaggerated they must have been inflated by bicycle-pumps: neither nature nor silicone could possibly have shaped them that way.

Bodies, stretched into the most contorted positions and entwined

around other bodies — girls with girls and girls with boys — entice buyers to watch the video. Sellers continue to talk about their products even through the most explicit, conversation-stopping scenes.

At the stand for Wicked Pictures of California, a porn queen called Serenity was making her debut at the festival yesterday. As the company's new "contract girl" — with her own fan club on the Internet — she will make six films this year, adding to the estimated 7,200 porn movies produced each year in the United States alone.

Serenity, 27, from Las Vegas, said she was initially reticent about the job: her image of the industry was of "sunny people and terrible things that happen to the girls". But it wasn't like that, she insisted.

This was her fifth year in a career that her family would not have chosen for her. For the first three years, she did only "girl-girl" films. "Now I do boy-girl and girl-girl."

Steven Viotto, of Wicked Pictures, said that the stars, who tended to be gay, were able to choose their leading men or women. Girls who were new

to the business do not have that luxury. They can expect to be paid from £250 for a sex scene to £6,000 a day. Serenity said that bigger productions, with "a lot of dialogue", could take up to a week. "When you are involved in making the movies, you're thinking finances. It's not a sexual experience," Mr Viotto said.

He emphasised that Wicked Pictures' products did not involve "the bad stuff". He said that he was shocked by some of the films made for the markets in Germany, Spain and France.

Paisley celebrates Elvis MacPresley

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

QUEEN VICTORIA could soon be deposed by the King if Elvis Presley fans in Paisley are successful in their plans to commemorate the town's newly discovered descendant.

A proposal to replace the Queen's 50-year-old statue outside the town hall with a life-sized model of the gyrating Presley is one of the suggestions put forward after it emerged last month that one of his forebears was a Paisley blacksmith who emigrated in 1745. Presley's Scottish roots were disclosed by Bill Burk, an American, in his new book, *Early Elvis: The Tupelo Years*.

Debate has reached such a pitch that Jim Mitchell, an SNP councillor and Elvis fan, will suggest to Renfrewshire

council tomorrow that a cross-party Elvis Presley subcommittee be set up in an effort to come to a decision. He believes that Paisley should seize its golden opportunity to promote itself as "true Elvis country". Ending Queen Victoria's reign in the town centre was something "worth considering", he added. Less controversial options include twinning Paisley with Memphis.

But the Elvis link has not pleased everyone. Nancy Allison, the council provost, said that deposing Queen Victoria would make the town a laughing stock. Another councillor said: "It is like replacing the Trafalgar Square lions with the Spice Girls. The whole thing's ridiculous."

Cambridge pays a rare honour to woman graduate after 80-year wait

AT THE age of 104 Molly Maxwell can finally put "BA Hons" after her name — 80 years after sitting her finals at Cambridge. Wearing a black gown, she was presented with her degree during celebrations to mark her birthday yesterday.

Mrs Maxwell left Newnham College in 1917, when women received only an honours certificate. They were not allowed to receive degrees and become members of the university until 1948.

Mrs Maxwell, who read German and English, is thought to be Cambridge's oldest living graduate. "It's a great surprise. I'll hang it on the wall. I worked very hard for it," she said after receiving the degree from Dr Gillian



Mrs Maxwell as a student and on her birthday yesterday

Sutherland, a fellow of the college. Champagne corks popped during the ceremony, after which Dr Sutherland said: "Today we have completed the



process properly. It is very good to see the translation of this hard-earned certificate." Women who graduated before 1948 can apply to translate their certificate to a degree.

This was undertaken only this year when staff at Mrs Maxwell's nursing home in Golders Green, north London, decided to do something special for their oldest resident.

Mrs Maxwell's husband, who died about 30 years ago, was a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, as was one of her sons.

Her daughter Margaret, a graduate of Oxford, watched the ceremony yesterday. Miss Maxwell, 74, said: "It has been very overwhelming for mother, but we are very pleased for her."

Mrs Maxwell was also presented with a silk scarf which is based on part of the ceiling in Newnham College library. The limited edition silk scarf was a gift from the college.

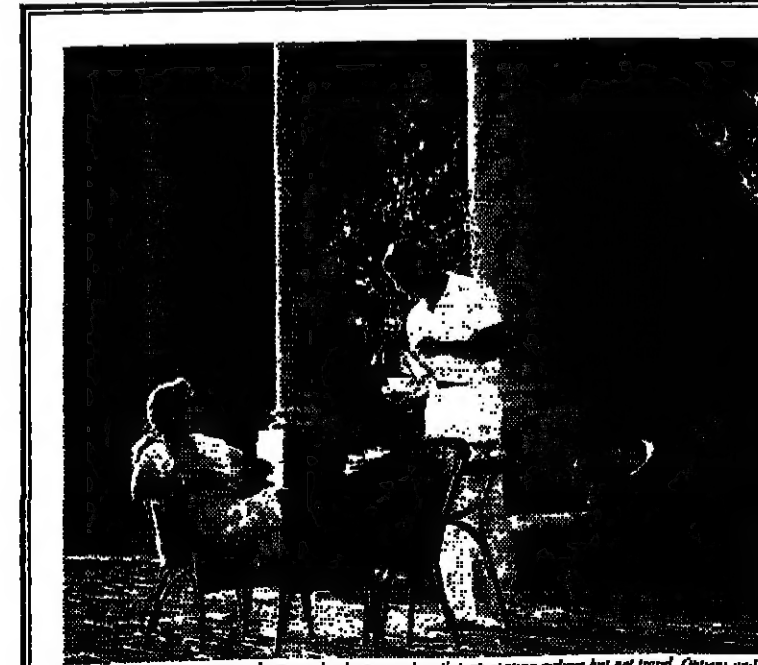
Renewing your home insurance in May or June and want to save money?

- * Saga, the specialists in insurance for people aged 50 and over
- * Comprehensive, low cost cover
- * A service that is direct and trouble free
- * Even wider range of properties covered

Call free today! SAGA Services Ltd

0800 414 525 Quoting reference TM5714

Lines open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 7pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm. Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.



As temperatures go up, our prices go down.

Summer OPTIONS*

World-class service and attention to detail are more affordable than ever this summer thanks to Summer Options from Inter-Continental and Forum Hotels and Resorts. Special rates are available seven nights a week and include a guest room for two plus your choice of one of the following complimentary options:

- Full American Breakfast for Two.
 - Upgrade to Club Inter-Continental Room or Jr. Suite.
 - Additional Guest Room at Half-Price.
 - Double Bonus Mileage with Participating Airlines.
- To make a reservation in any one of our 60 hotels in 50 European cities please call now on 0345 581444 and ask for Summer Options. For a brochure call 0800 854068.

Paris from £148, Brussels from £63, Cannes from £162, Montreux from £125, Zurich from £68.

INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTELS AND RESORTS
Europe • The Middle East • Africa • Asia Pacific • The Americas
ONE WORLD • ONE HOTEL • UNIQUELY INTER-CONTINENTAL
www.interconti.com

Fire report attacks errors, delays and management weaknesses, but spares wagon design

Tunnel inquiry is criticised over open-sided trains

EUROTUNNEL must introduce a wide range of Channel Tunnel safety checks and new equipment before being allowed to restart the freight shuttle service suspended after last year's fire.

A critical report into the tunnel fire listed a string of errors, avoidable delays and management weaknesses by the Channel Tunnel operators that were exposed by last November's blaze.

However, the long-awaited report itself came under attack for failing to recommend the abolition of trains that have been widely criticised for enabling fire and fumes to spread more quickly.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, was among those voicing fears over the open-sided trains. Fire service leaders also said that closed carriages, such as those used on the car shuttle, were needed.

The report by the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority expresses concern at the speed at which fire spread through the freight train. But it does not meet firefighters' demands for closed wagons to be made compulsory.

Mr Prescott, who oversees the Transport Department, voiced his fears about the design of the wagons and made clear that his concerns

Arthur Leathley reports on continuing fears about the safety of the Channel Tunnel freight shuttle service

will be aired when the French and British Governments decide on resumption of freight shuttle services.

"I know there are concerns, which I share, regarding the design of the freight wagons and Eurotunnel's operation procedures for them," he said.

The Inter-Governmental Commission [the Anglo-French body administering the tunnel] will be considering these points and I shall be instructing the UK's representative to reflect my concerns."

The design of freight trains using the tunnel has concerned many fire service chiefs, including Jeremy Beech, the Kent county fire officer who is a member of the safety authority. He repeated his anxieties yesterday, although he acknowledged that there were other safety worries attached to having closed wagons.

Safety experts have given warning that heavier, closed

wagons are more likely to derail. Eurotunnel says that it could not run a freight wagon with closed wagons, as used on car shuttles.

The wide-ranging criticisms contained in the report will force Eurotunnel to introduce many safety changes before it is allowed to resume the freight shuttle service suspended after the fire.

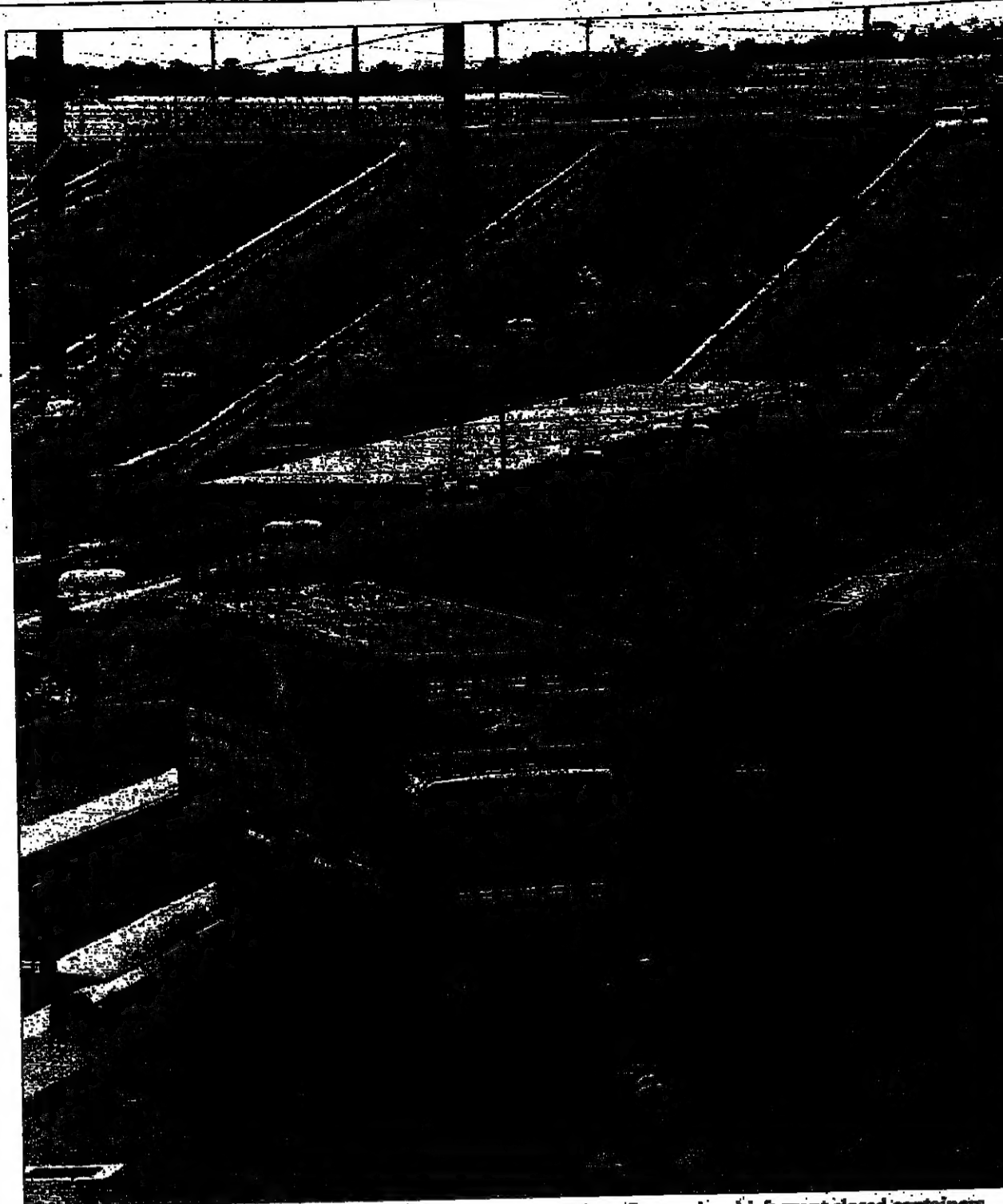
Eurotunnel hopes to begin trial freight services before restarting its commercial service next month. However, the safety authority said yesterday that it would advise against resumption of the service unless Eurotunnel agreed to implement the main recommendations. The authority will advise the Anglo-French commission, which will decide whether to allow the freight service to restart.

The safety authority report said that the battle to save passengers' lives during the Channel Tunnel blaze was disrupted by confusion, management weakness and staff inexperience. Breakdowns in communication, inadequate training and failure to treat the fire seriously led to serious delays as members of staff tried to cope with the first major incident to hit the tunnel.

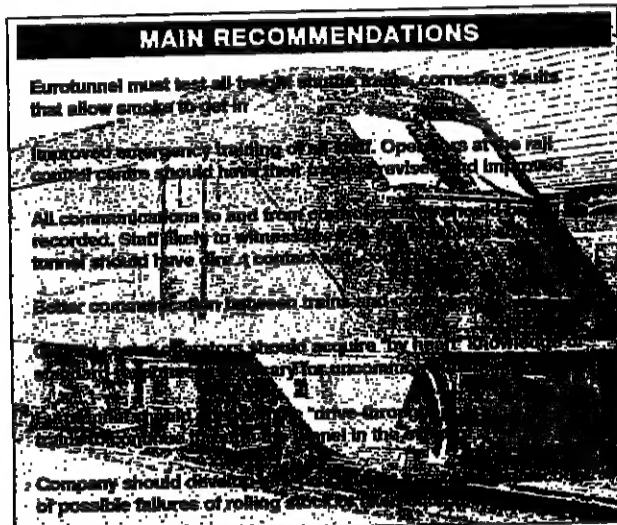
The fire broke out after a lorry entering the tunnel from France caught light, leading to a rapid spread of smoke and fumes through much of the freight shuttle train. Although the fire seriously damaged 600 metres of tunnel and took more than nine hours to control, the report states that it could have been far more serious if the blaze had broken out at the front of the train.

The highly critical report levels charges at the highest management levels at Eurotunnel and demands a list of improvements before heavy-goods vehicles will be allowed to resume their use of its services.

The report says that the fire on November 18 exposed "fundamental weaknesses" in the safety system, although the



A lorry leaving one of Eurotunnel's lattice-style wagons. Many fire service chiefs want closed containers.



authority had earlier passed procedures as adequate. A separate report into the cause of the fire is expected later this week from a French judicial inquiry team.

Yesterday's 68-page report published in English and French says that the safety procedures were hindered by over-complex emergency procedures and inadequately-trained staff. The authority made 36 recommendations to ensure there would be no repetition of an incident that

led to 30 lorry drivers needing hospital treatment after being trapped in a fume-filled compartment.

Although security staff reported flames up to 6ft high on the freight shuttle train as it entered the tunnel, five out of the first six fire detectors in the tunnel gave only unconfirmed alarms, and detectors on the train did not give an early alarm.

The report comments that Eurotunnel did not have an immediate warning of what

was a significant developing fire. Further communication problems occurred as the fire worsened and rail control centre staff were "submerged in an overload of information and alarms". These staff failed to halt other trains in the tunnel to lessen the spread of smoke and fumes.

Smoke entered the club coach on the train, where the lorry drivers sat, after the coach's door opened. The door, passengers said, smoke also entered by other means.

although Eurotunnel has denied that smoke had entered through the ventilation system.

The costs of repairing the tunnel have exceeded £50 million. Transport industry experts estimate that the overall costs, including suspended freight services, could amount to more than £100 million. The report also says that the tunnel's ventilation system was not working properly at the time of the fire.

Driver gave underwater kiss of life

Ross Davies, 18, kept alive his friend Liam Coffey, 16, who was trapped in a car underwater, by repeatedly diving down and blowing air into his mouth. Mr Davies, of Sturway, near Colchester, the driver, and another friend escaped when the car overturned into a 16ft ditch. He said the incident must have lasted 15 minutes. "I kept going down, holding his nose and breathing into his mouth." Liam was finally pulled out with the help of passers-by.

School shooting

A boy aged 11 was arrested after a pupil at a school in Salford, near Manchester, was shot in the leg with an airgun pellet. The victim, also 11, was in the grounds of St Edmunds Roman Catholic Primary School. The pellet was removed in hospital.

Royal Navy first

The Royal Navy has appointed the Rev Charles E. Stewart of the Church of Scotland as director-general of its chaplaincy service. He will be the first non-Anglican to fill the post. Dr Stewart served on HMS Hermes during the Falklands war.

Pollution charges

The Environment Agency is to proceed with criminal charges arising out of the Sea Empress oil spillage, in which 120 miles of Welsh coastline were polluted. On legal advice, the agency has not yet named the defendants or charges.

Football A-level

Oldborough Minor Community School, in Maidstone, Kent, is to give sixth-formers the chance to gain the equivalent of three A-levels by specialising in football. The course includes two GNVQs in business, centred on football, and A-level PE.

Sporting gesture

The man who drank himself to death celebrating Labour's election victory is to be commemorated by his local pub in Bradford. An annual cricket match will be held to compete for the ashes of Keith Narey, who used to umpire for the team at The Brewery Tap.

Christian Dior



Essence of freedom

New fragrance for Men
30 ml Eau de Toilette limited edition* £16

THE DIFFERENCE IS
DEBENHAMS

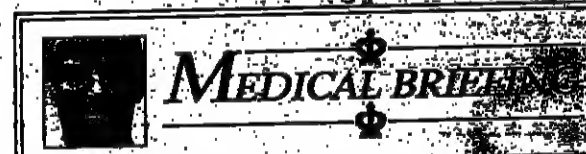
Available at most Debenhams stores including Browns of Chester.

Paying the price for eternal youth

THE latest hormone to be sought by those who hope to roll back the years and remain young is pregnenolone. It has been available as part of multi-ingredient preparations in Britain for many years but users should beware that existing preparations are known to have side-effects.

Somerset Maugham would be amused that the hormonal key to eternal youth is now sought by more women than men. Seventy years ago, he believed that an extract of the testes of lambs and monkeys would keep him vigorous, and in his case may have helped him to live to a great age.

The concept of maintaining youthful vigour through hormone supplements became



accepted by conventional medicine with the advent of hormone replacement therapy. HRT does protect the bones, arteries, heart, genitalia, and possibly the brain. Likewise, in men, testosterone, used carefully in selected patients, and with full checks to make certain that these patients show no early signs of possible malignant change in their prostate, preserve masculine drive.

Pregnenolone is a sex hormone related to the female hormones and to testosterone: when it was first used in modern medicine it was limited by its androgenising effects. The use of one related preparation was particularly worrying when given to pregnant women: it was found that female babies born to the women were more likely to suffer from significant changes in their sexual organs, and had an increased risk of abnormalities of the central nervous system.

One hormone, however —

the human growth hormone — was found to reverse as well as arrest the signs of downward ageing. In Mexico, the experiments in the shape of the people being changed: fat, ageing, and from patients' bodies, and breasts, while their joints and legs regained their youthful outline and musculature. Human growth hormone is ex-

ensive and British medical authorities concluded that the experiments did not exclude the possibility of undesirable side-effects.

HRT should be recommended for most menopausal women: testosterone may revitalise some men's lives, but the cases need careful selection. The amount of research which has been done on the long-term effects of other hormonal products does not yet warrant their widespread use.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD



Maugham: long-lived

Mercedes COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM OWNERS £170

Quality Reviewed by Low Insurance Low Cost Schemes for Mercedes

Tel: 0121 748 2211 NOW!

or Phone your nearest Branch at the Local Rate on 0445 123111

Ask Mercedes to be the first to see: <http://www.hhh.co.uk>

Hill House Hammond
250 Branches Nationwide

Downloading from the Internet without ISDN?

Here's something to pass the time.

Fig. 9. How to curl celery for garnishing.

ISDN is up to four times quicker than an ordinary phone line. Call BT Businessconnections on Freephone 0800 800 800.

Freefone 0800 800 800 BT

FRANCE AND GERMANY FOR HARDY A SAUSAGE

13p PER MINUTE ON 22nd JUNE

Call France and Germany on 22nd June, 13p per minute, or more and all hours on 23rd June, 13p per minute. All calls are still at least 20% cheaper than standard calls on weekdays, evenings and all weekend. After business hours Europe opens up. For details FreeCall 0500 500 366 and quote ref BTMST.

Mercury SmartCall

* Prices and savings shown are as at 1 May 1997. Company offers BT's best rate for international calls of 5 minutes or more, from 10am to 10pm on weekdays. SmartCall is available for a quarterly fee of £375. All calls subject to a 15p connection charge. All prices are VAT.

Virtual reality brain makes surgery safer

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

BRAIN surgery in Britain will be revolutionised by a "virtual reality" technique that will make operations safer and let surgeons tackle previously inoperable tumours, the man who is introducing the system said yesterday.

The £180,000 system, which has been used successfully on about 30 patients at the Institute of Neurosciences in Glasgow, is the first of its kind in Britain. There are 70 in use elsewhere in the world. The portable machine was described by Garth Cruickshank

the consultant neurosurgeon introducing it, as "the most important breakthrough in the field for decades".

The Neuronavigation system, designed by BrainLab in Germany, uses two near-infra-red cameras which track tiny ceramic balls attached to surgical instruments. The images are relayed to a computer screen, programmed with three-dimensional images of the patient's brain taken from scans. As the surgeon operates, the screen shows where his instruments are inside the

brain and gives a clear image of the tumour, allowing much more accurate removal.

The machine can give a scalpel a "virtual" tip, allowing the surgeon to rehearse the operation and to ensure that he does not damage structures in the brain as he works.

Mr Cruickshank is leaving the Southern General Hospital, where the institute is based, in July to become Professor of Neurosurgery at Birmingham University, where he hopes to introduce the system. He said the technique meant much smaller incisions in the head, shorter recovery times and safer surgery.

He said it was as easy to use as a computer game. He joked that neurosurgeons "have poor powers of concentration — it has to be simple, straightforward and reliable." He believes the 5 per cent morbidity rate — the incidence of damage — associated with neurosurgery could be improved by up to 15 per cent by the technique.

"One of the problems of neurosurgery is that the brain, when it is diseased, becomes extremely distorted," Mr Cruickshank said. "The huge advantage of this new piece of equipment is that it enables you to look at the pathology as you are operating on it. Not only can you be more accu-

rate, but you can get to bits of the brain you weren't able to get to safely before. You can also use much smaller openings into the skull.

"As well as allowing us to do new operations, it is going to make many of the routine things we do in neurosurgery, such as putting in catheters or draining cysts, much safer, quicker and easier."

The first patient to be operated on in Britain with the technique was Stewart Gilchrist, 43, the former chief investment manager of Scottish Amicable. Mr Gilchrist,

who is married and lives in Strathblane, suffers from a recurrent brain tumour which was discovered after he crashed his car during an epileptic fit on New Year's Day, 1993.

Cruikshank said that it was particularly useful in Mr. Gilchrist's case because the previous surgery had distorted the brain and made it more difficult for surgeons to find their way around.

The margins of his tumour were much clearer on the computer screen, making it more likely the tumour has been entirely removed. A third operation, if needed, would be possible with the new technique but much more difficult using conventional methods.

second operation as the surgeons did not have to manipulate his head as much. The second operation took two hours, compared with three

"I was very pleased to be the recipient of such an advanced technique," Mr Gilchrist said. "Before the operation you have attachments put on your head making you look like a small Sputnik. But during the operation things went much the same as before as far as I am concerned." He is on a course of chemotherapy to keep the tumour at bay.



Gilchrist: first patient

Would-be padre produced gun in pub

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A THEOLOGY student who hoped to become an Army padre was jailed for two years yesterday for producing a pistol in a crowded pub during a women's dominoes match. Play-ers dived for the floor when one woman noticed Robert Bamford-Stewart loading the weapon and shouted a warning.

Barnford-Stewart, 46, who was wearing a clerical collar, produced the pistol after a row with regulars over whether he was a priest. One man tried to disarm him and the two then grappled at the bar with the gun between them until Barnford-Stewart was forced to the floor.

Leeds on charges of affray and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. Yesterday he appeared for sentence at Bradford Crown Court.

The incident happened in April last year when Bamford-Stewart, a student at Lampeter College in Wales, called in at the Crown pub in Normanton, near Wakefield, where customers recognised him from a previous visit when he had blessed them. One drinker accused him of not being a real vicar.

Bamford-Stewart then drew a .38 pistol from a case, put ammunition in the magazine and let it rest on his thigh. Philip Wright, another drinker, wrestled him to the ground, holding him face down until police arrived. Bamford-Stewart later

told police he had bought the gun the same day "to test if his faith was compatible with firearms". He had fired it on Morecambe beach. He claimed he was merely showing off the gun at the pub in an "innocent display". The gun can fire blanks only.

Drivers put at risk by road-sign thieves

BY DAREH GREGORIAN

GANGS are stealing road signs to sell for scrap, putting motorists' lives at risk, the AA said yesterday.

The theft of the aluminium signs, some of which are worth £5,000, is costing councils hundreds of thousands of pounds a year. "We have had reports around the country of people posing as maintenance workers who have stripped entire routes of their signs. It is *very difficult to police*," an AA spokesman, Steve Upsher, said. "If someone is posing as

a maintenance worker, with an orange jacket and a van, it's hard to tell."

Hampshire and the Midlands are the areas hardest hit by the gangs, Mr Upsher said. "In Basingstoke, £70,000 worth of signs was stolen in one run. In one instance in the Midlands, thieves stole every other chevron sign from the motorway roundabout. In East Anglia, a complete bridge parapet was stolen. The number of signs stolen last year runs into the thousands."

RAC, said: "Aluminium has a high resale value and it is easy to get. If you are going to nick

to get. If you are going to walk it, it's easy to carry, and the return far outweighs the effort." He said that, posing as maintenance workers, the gangs would attract little attention. It was not impossible "that a great number of police cars have driven past them without knowing it".

Paul Watters, head of road and transport policy at the AA, said that the thefts could have deadly consequences. "Signs are a vital part of the road scene and are there to inform

warn or direct the motorist. Warning signs and chevrons on bends are particularly important and can be lifesavers. Taking them away can present a real hazard, especially for drivers who are unfamiliar with a certain route."

The AA recommends that agencies use steel or plastic for the signs, as those materials are worth much less as scrap than aluminium, or that they invest in tamper-proof screws. "Some of the recommendations may be expensive, but they save money in the long run," Mr Upsher said.

INTRODUCTORY
OFFER

Jermyn Street quality at affordable prices

JAMES MEADE
LIMITED

Our 32 page *Men's Classics* catalogue is filled with items of clothing that are superior in quality, value and style. We use the finest fabrics and workmanship the world can offer and our attention to detail is impeccable.

Yet, despite all this, you do not have to pay Jermyn Street prices. By dealing direct, we avoid London's expensive West End overheads and pass the benefit on to you in the form of affordable prices. And to make the value even more irresistible, as a special introductory offer, I have deducted 10% from the current catalogue prices.

Featured here are some of the many items contained in

our *Spring and Summer Classics* catalogue. Our cotton shirts are made from pure two-fold 100s and 140s cotton poplin, fabrics chosen by the world's most famous shirtmakers. Its rich lustre and silken feel make it cool and comfortable to wear all year round. And by offering a choice of up to 7 sleeve lengths we ensure that your shirts fit you perfectly. This, combined with generous cut, the longest tails you will find and superb finishing, brings you a shirt which will rival the finest made-to-measure shirt you can buy anywhere.

Whether it be shirts, knitwear including luxurious two-ply Scottish Cashmere, trousers, jackets, suits, nightwear or accessories that you are looking for, it is all here in *Men's Classics* and all made from the very finest materials.

Every item is backed by our guarantee of your satisfaction. So don't delay, order your FREE catalogue today, to take advantage of our introductory offer.

Cool short sleeved shirts for
business or leisure

Cool wool, linen and silk
jacket and pure wool trousers

☎ 01264 333222

Simply complete this coupon and send it to: James Meade Limited, FREEPOST (SN 1676), Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3BR, and we will send you your FREE copy of *Men's Classics*. Or telephone us on

01264 333222

quoting reference BMTDDR, or fax this coupon to us on 01264 363200 today to take advantage of our special introductory offer.

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel No

If you do not wish to receive direct mail from other carefully selected companies, please let us know.

I997 'Top Direct Lender Over Two Years' – What Mortgage Magazine.

Moving house?

Call Direct Line for a cheaper mortgage.

Not moving house? Ditto.

*Mortgage example of £80,000 repayable over 25 years (300 monthly payments).

Lender	APR (Variable)	Monthly Repayments (after tax relief)	Monthly saving with Direct Line	Total Payable (gross)
WOOLWICH	7.8%	£560.69	£52.47	£176,130
HALIFAX	7.8%	£557.83	£49.61	£177,156
ABBEY NATIONAL	7.6%	£557.34	£49.12	£175,799
DIRECT LINE	6.5%	£508.22	-	£158,805

APRs based on Standard Variable Rate Repayment mortgages, correct as 2nd May 1997. Source Moneyfacts.

IDEAS has been calculating under current tax legislation which may alter.

- It doesn't matter whether you're moving house or not, you can still move your mortgage to Direct Line.
- It could save you around £50* a month.
- You can borrow up to 90% of the value of your home.
- There's a free valuation.
- No early redemption, arrangement or mortgage indemnity fees.
- Direct line guarantees to save you 20%† on your existing buildings insurance.
- If you transfer your mortgage without moving house Direct Line will pay your legal fees‡.
- Call now, we're waiting to beat the banks and building societies.

DIRECT LINE
MORTGAGES

0181 649 9099

LONDON

0161 831 9099

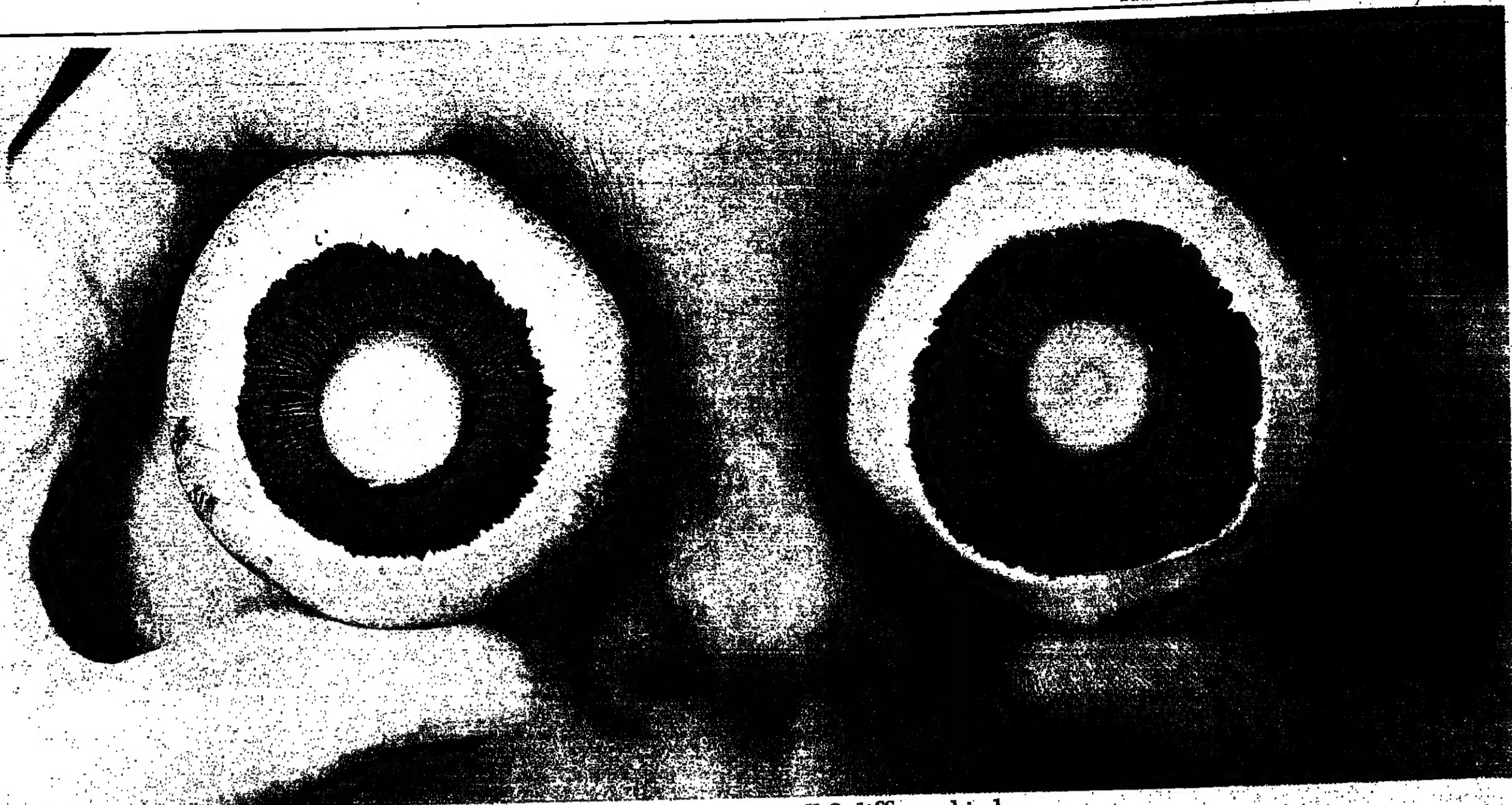
MANCHESTER

0141 221 9099

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TT75
www.directline.co.uk A Royal Bank of Scotland company.

The agent provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 200 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 8PP. Direct Line mortgages from £20,000 to £200,000 are available for up to 95% of the property value, or 100% for first-time buyers in the home. Applications must be aged 18 to 64 at Direct Line. Our Financial Services Limited reserves the right to refuse any application. The borrower is responsible for the interest rate and security in the form of a first charge. Some valuations require a fee. Not all properties are eligible for Direct Line mortgages. The borrower is responsible for the details of the loan. All rates quoted are indicative and subject to change. The standard valuation fee will be added to the loan amount. The mortgage is repaid up front by the lender. Interest is paid to the lender. Direct Line will pay your legal fees, provided you complete the transfer of your mortgage to our existing terms using our standard policy. If you decide to use your own solicitor, it will cost you more. In the event of a transfer of your mortgage, there will be no early exit fee. Direct Line will pay the difference up to a maximum of £200. This is a limited offer and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. It does not cover any penalties or charges. Some mortgages may require payment of a fee to the existing lender when being transferred. The guaranteed mortgage rate may vary. Your mortgage is arranged by your lender and is subject to our normal underwriting criteria and corresponding levels of cover. For your added security, we have taken steps to ensure that the mortgage is repaid. We may also monitor developments with the aim of improving our service to you. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.
Direct Line Ltd. has registered companies and vehicles for the collection of Direct Line mortgage payments and used with its permission.



If you like mushrooms, we sell 9 different kinds.

Take a fresh look at Sainsbury's.

We're not the biggest supermarket in the country.

(How could we be? We have 378 stores and Tesco have 570.)

But size isn't what Sainsbury's is about - it's always been about quality and it always will be.

Food is our passion.

We sell forty kinds of sausages.

Thirty-five different apples throughout the year.

Twenty-four varieties of potatoes (three of which you can use in salads).

Our wine buyers travel 50,000 miles a year to snap up the best buys.

We sell 103 cheeses.

Our fresh Italian pasta comes to us exclusively from Italy.

(Not from an Italian in the Old Kent Road.)

We sell British ales from specialist brewers like Tanglefoot, Waggledance and Hobgoblin.

(We also sell sixteen other unusual

beers from around the world.)

Our in-store bakeries bake throughout the day. So even if you're a late riser our bread is rising with you.

We use real root ginger in our Fresh Ginger Beer. (And no E numbers.)

Our Indian ready-meals use spices shipped from India.

We have more fresh meat counters than any other supermarket.

You'll find forty-two kinds of ice-cream in our freezer cabinets.

Thirty-five blends of fresh ground coffee on our shelves.

And thirty-seven types of fish on our fresh fish counters.

In the whole wide world of food there are few treasures we haven't discovered.

We popularised the avocado back in the Sixties.

Since then we've championed many other foods, including mozzarella cheese, fromage frais, crème fraîche, filo pastry and Parma ham.

If there's a fresh idea in cooking you can be sure we'll be leading from the front.

We sell over 2,000 vegetarian lines and have one of the widest ranges of organic produce.

In some ways you could say we're slightly batty about food.

Who else would offer you three kinds of smoked salmon? (Mild oak-smoked, medium oak-smoked and full-bodied oak and beech-smoked.)

Who else would sell fourteen types of flour?

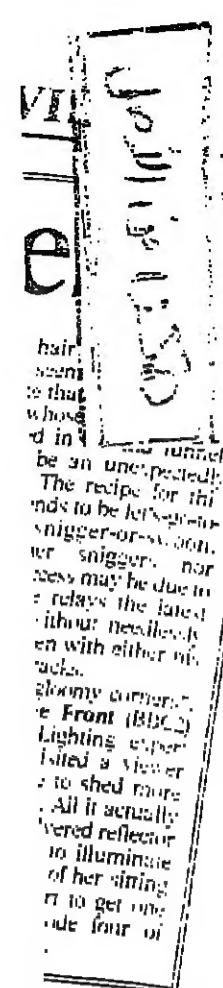
Who else would bring you fresh soups like Spinach, Coconut and Cumin?

We like to think it's not battiness that drives us on, but enthusiasm.

Quite simply, we're a store that loves food.

It's what makes us different; it's what makes us Sainsbury's.

Sainsbury's
FRESH FOOD, FRESH IDEAS.



LLITE
tasting on
a Satellite
corder will
el free of
Order Mo
sound:

7:24 7.30
adventures
211 8.36

lusive try
Garden

press o
nd the
Family

lunzel
sperry

rony
heel
the
ec.



Our fresh pasta is made in Italy with Italian know-how.

Blunkett takes a lesson from Swiss on teaching 3Rs

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

RADICAL teaching methods drawn from Britain's global competitors will be added to traditional classroom practice to raise standards in mathematics and literacy, the Government said yesterday. Children will also be discouraged from using calculators until they are eight.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said teachers could learn from Switzerland and Taiwan, where children performed far better in reading, writing and arithmetic.

Such a move could lead to more children being held back a year in primary school so they learn with pupils of their own ability rather than their age — as in Switzerland, where up to a quarter of children are in the year below

their age group. Or, as in Taiwan, children could be taught in whole class groups with extra help given at lunchtime or after school to those who struggled to keep up.

Mr Blunkett said the Government wanted a revamp of teaching methods to ensure that, by 2002, 75 per cent of 11-year-olds were reaching expected levels of numeracy and 80 per cent in literacy. In last summer's national curriculum tests, results showed 55 per cent and 57 per cent of 11-year-olds respectively were at those levels.

Mr Blunkett formally established a Numeracy Task Force to report in November on strategies to achieve the targets, mirroring the Literacy Task Force which reported while Labour was in Opposition.

The task force will be headed by Professor David Reynolds, of the University of Newcastle, whose has extensively studied mathematics teaching in the Far East.

Professor Reynolds said schools would have to reverse inspectors' judgments that mathematics for seven to 11-year-olds was the "least well taught and least interesting" subject at those crucial ages.

He added: "We have major problems as a country in the area of numeracy. For the first time in the last few years, there will be a genuine scientific attempt to review the evidence, from this country and abroad and from practitioners in schools, about what works."

The "interactive" whole class teaching he studied in Taiwan had already been used effectively in the London borough of Barking and Dagenham, he said. Children's desks are in a double horseshoe shape in class, so they are all facing the teacher, and can be called on at any time to answer questions or take over the lesson for a few minutes.

Parents found it easier in other countries to help children at home, he said, because lessons were set out in manuals they could buy. The task force would consider manuals for teachers which would help parents in this way.

Mr Blunkett hinted that there would be less use of calculators for children aged five to seven. "It is vital children understand that calculators exist, but also that they have the basic tools of calculation themselves — including mental arithmetic."

Teachers' leaders welcomed the targets but said that they could not be achieved without more resources. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "We are very supportive of the idea of a national numeracy drive. The targets are tough, and they can only be achieved if primary schools are given more support than they were under the last Government."

Multiple ways to learn times tables

PARENTS should encourage their children to chant their times tables and play games to learn the basics of mathematics, a government adviser said yesterday (David Charter writes).

Number games were just as helpful as parrot-fashion recitals, and parents and teachers should make mathematics fun, said Anita Straker, director of the National Numeracy Project and a member of the numeracy task force. She said children should be challenged to think about numbers. Multiplication tables could be recited backwards as well as forwards, or started in different places.

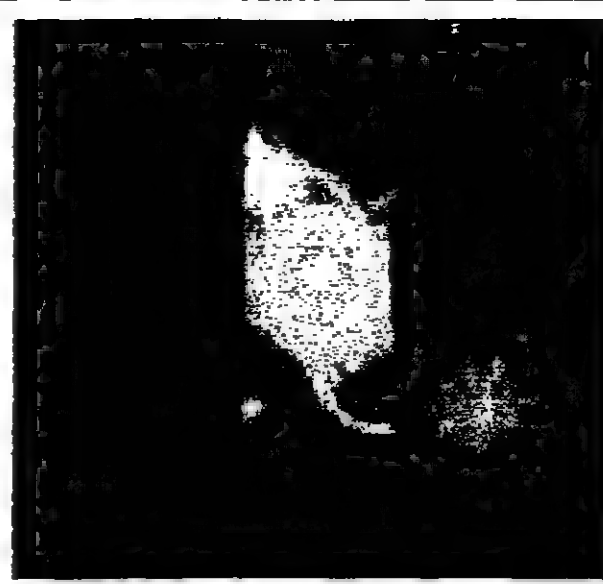
Mrs Straker said: "It is really important that children know their tables, but variety is important in mathematics because, if you do things one way, when you meet different circumstances you might be unable to adapt. Children also need to be taught strategies for remembering facts."

School lessons should end by revising the most difficult facts covered, she said.

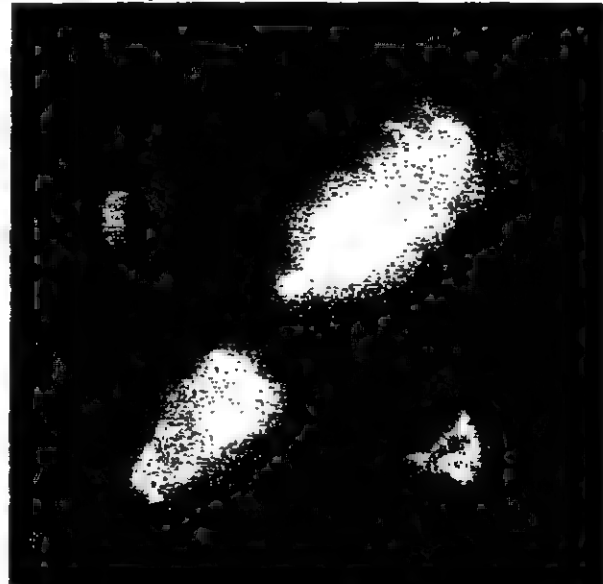
"If the most difficult one to remember was that six sevens are 42, then you go round the class asking children to say the answer in the voice of an elephant, or a cat, or mouse. By the time you have gone round the class like that, children will remember it."

Number games are an important part of a strategy developed by Peter Lacey, a former official with the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, now a schools adviser in Lincolnshire.

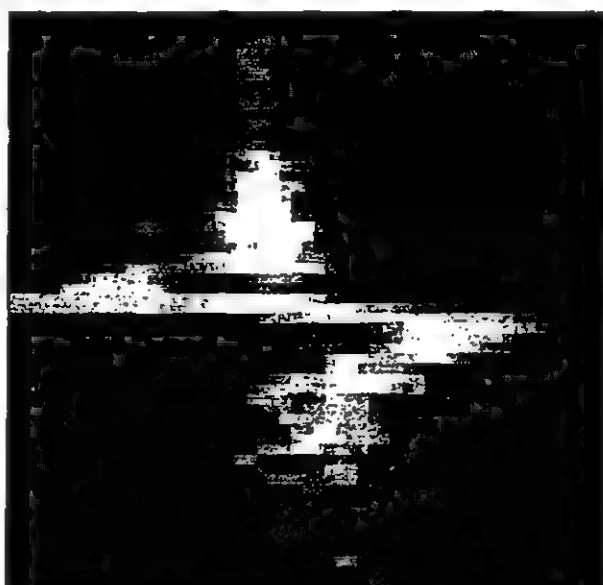
Children are expected to learn their tables at home so they can use their skills for competitions in class. For example, the number 1997 will be written on the board and pupils challenged to make the most combinations totalling 20 or less from the individual digits through addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.



Supernova 1987A explodes 167,000 light years away



A dying star hurls out gas and dust in the Egg nebula



Dust and gas swirl round a black hole in galaxy M84

Hubble pictures show life and death of stars

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE first pictures taken by new instruments on the Hubble space telescope have excited astronomers with images of dying stars and a black hole at the centre of a nearby galaxy.

The telescope was upgraded in February. One of the new instruments, the Near-Infrared Camera and Multi-Object Spectrometer (Nicomos), took pictures of an exploding star and of a region in the Orion nebula where new stars are forming.

Seen from Earth, the Orion nebula is relatively dim and featureless, but the Hubble telescope unmasked a chaotic region where massive young stars hurl material into the surrounding molecular cloud. Stars and glowing dust, heated by intense starlight, appear yellow-orange.

The second new instrument, the imaging spectrograph, has produced the best pictures yet of events around a black hole in the galaxy M84, which is 50 light years away.

The spectrograph can detect the movement of gas, dust and stars either towards or away from the Earth. The image, like a jagged line, shows that light from one side of the galaxy's centre is shifted far to the blue end of the spectrum, while on the other side it is shifted far to the red.

This means that the material must be whirling around the galactic centre at speeds of 400 kilometres per second. Only a black hole with a mass 30 times that of the Sun could whisk the material around so fast, NASA scientists said.

Tempering the good news for scientists is that one of the two new instruments is likely to last only two years. It needs to be cooled by the evaporation of solid nitrogen. It appears that the nitrogen has expanded more than expected and pushed a third camera out of focus. The gas is also leaking into space, reducing the instrument's effective life. To compensate, more of the observing time on Hubble will be devoted to Nicomos over the next 18 months, twice as much as planned.

Ladybird spider births raise survival hopes

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ONE of Britain's rarest creatures, the ladybird spider, has been bred in captivity by entomologists from English Nature. Until recently only 30 or so of the spiders survived, at a single area of Dorset heathland near Wareham. Now, thanks to the restoration of the site to its original conditions, numbers are rising again.

The successful captive breeding of the spider — only the second time this is known to have been achieved — raises hopes that it can be saved.

Dr Roger Key, of English Nature, said: "We're delighted to announce the birth of a whole clutch of spiderlings. We now have to see if we can rear them to adulthood. If we can do this successfully we will then try to breed spiders from the Dorset population for release in Britain."

The spider is one of the most striking of native species, but it does not get out much. The female, which is matt black, lives all her life in her burrow, while the smaller but more brilliantly coloured male appears only for a couple of weeks in May, during the breeding season. The females lay up to 80 eggs in a cocoon and nurse them until they hatch in July or August. The mothers feed the young on regurgitated food and, in a terminal act of devotion, die to give them a final meal.

The males, with a half-inch-long body, are almost equally reclusive, apart from their May outing. The increase in the species has been aided by a volunteer entomologist who has acted as a dating agency. Dr Key says. He has ensured that roaming males have all found their way to the burrow entrance of a waiting female, ensuring that all the females had a chance to breed.

That has helped to increase numbers to more than a hundred last summer, and further aid has come from Forest Enterprise, which has cleared encroaching pine and rhododendron from the site, no bigger than a football pitch, where the spiders live. By restoring the sandy heathland, clothed with heather, the spider has been given a helping hand.

The British population is far too small to risk any experiments in captive breeding, so spiders were brought over from a nature reserve in Jutland, in Denmark. The only previous record of success was reported by the late Gerald Durrell, the author and conservationist, who managed to raise offspring from a female he found as a boy on Corfu.

Ian Hughes, of Dudley Zoo, brought nine females and a single male from Jutland. Eight of the females were already pregnant, while the ninth duly mated with the spare male. All produced eggs.

"We have no idea how many there are, but we know they are there because, when we put out food, they take it," Dr Key says. "The worry was whether we could get them



The male emerges for only a few weeks a year

through the winter, which they spend entirely in the burrow. We just didn't know if it would be too damp, too dry, too hot, or too cold, but it seems to have worked out well."

There is no plan to release the Danish spiders into the wild, but they may be distributed in zoos so that people can see them. The experience from raising them in captivity will be used to do the same with the Dorset population, with the ultimate aim of recolonising other areas in Dorset and regions such as Cornwall and the Isle of Wight, which once had populations.

Between 1906 and 1979 the ladybird spider was believed to be extinct in Britain. Then the Dorset site was found, but it appears to be the only one.

Oil testing 'guns' pose threat to whales

WILDLIFE experts have warned of the danger that oil exploration could pose to whales, dolphins and porpoises off the Atlantic coast of Scotland (Nigel Hawkes writes). The fear is that the booming sound of seismic guns could confuse and frighten the creatures.

The deep seas off north and west Scotland, known as the Atlantic Frontier, are home to 21 species of cetaceans. Mark Simmonds, head of special projects at the

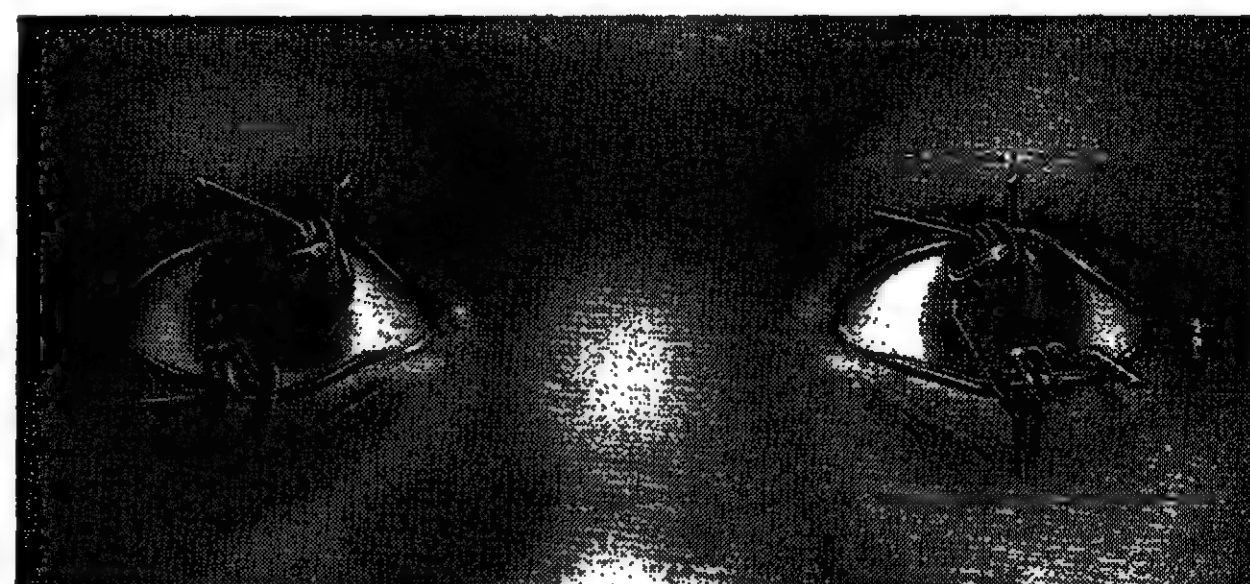
Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, said: "Whales and dolphins are very reliant on sound for socialising, feeding and migration and this normal behaviour could be disrupted over a wide area."

Seismic guns produce short pulses of loud noise. The echoes identify areas suitable for oil drilling. It is believed that cetaceans move away when seismic testing starts, but it is feared that they will not be able to avoid the noise because

many different areas will be explored during the summer.

A statement signed by 18 experts said that sperm whales could be at special risk because they dived deep and stayed down a long time, increasing the risk that the guns would be fired directly above them.

The Government has issued guidelines to oil companies to protect cetaceans, but the society is not convinced that they are adhered to strictly.



Blinking Hell

At first it's not too bad.

And it's easy to see how it's spread. Just watch a child for five minutes. They don't sit still for a moment. They're always poking their fingers into something they shouldn't, then rubbing their eyes with grubby fingers.

And that's all it takes to spread trachoma.

You only notice there's something wrong when the child's eye starts to itch and swell up.

It's not terribly nice but it's bearable, and the infection will "burn" itself out after a few weeks, leaving just a small scar on the eyelid.

The trouble is, it'll be back. And it won't just come back once. It will strike over and over again, with every reinfection burning and scarring the child's eyelids a little bit more.

In the end, after years of suffering, the eyelids become so scarred and disfigured that the eyelashes turn inwards, into the eye. Until, agonisingly slowly, you go blind.

Imagine, every time you blink, you scratch your eyes.

Think about it. You've probably blinked a dozen times since you started reading this. What if you'd scratched your eyes every time? You'd be in agony and you'd be

desperately trying to stop. But how do you stop blinking?

You may never even have heard of trachoma before, but 6 million people in the developing world are blind because of it. And millions more are carrying the infection. It makes life impossible for young mothers trying to raise children. Fathers and husbands can't work to support themselves, let alone their families. So the whole family suffers.

The utterly horrifying thing is, this suffering is totally unnecessary, because trachoma can be treated very quickly and cheaply in its early stages with Tetracycline ointment.

Delivery Guaranteed
WE PROMISE YOUR GIFT WILL SAVE SIGHT

YES, I want to help:
My gift is ☐ £12 ☐ £20 ☐ £30
☐ £100 ☐ £250 ☐ Other £

Please make your cheque payable to Sight Savers International, or if you wish to pay by Access, Visa, Amex or C.A.F. charity card enter your card number in the space below

Card expiry date / / Year

Signature _____ Title _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Please return this coupon with your donation to:
Sight Savers International, FREEPOST,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3ZA. Tel 0700 01 420 20

It costs as little as £1.20 to treat one person

But this is still far too much for many people in the developing world, which is why Sight Savers is asking you to help.

With £12 you can help relieve the suffering of ten young people with trachoma.

You can even help with the more advanced cases. £5 is all we need for the operation to turn back the ingrowing eyelashes, so they stop scratching the eye. A donation of £51 will help save the sight and relieve the suffering of ten more people.

Wouldn't you pay a hundred or a thousand times that if it were your eyes at stake? Please help by sending a donation with this coupon to:

Sight Savers International,
FREEPOST, Haywards Heath,
West Sussex, RH16 3ZA

Or you can call our credit card hotline (Access/Visa/Amex/C.A.F. charity card) on 0700 01 420 20



SPRING OFFERS
Book by 16 May, travel by 30 June

AMSTERDAM 218 Sovereign
• 1 night B&B
• **** Amstel Hotel
• Additional nights £30
• Heathrow, Manchester & regional*
£108

PARIS 134 Travelsave
• 1 night B&B
• ** Grand Hotel de Paris
• Additional nights £20
• Eurostar from Waterloo
£107

PRAGUE 345 Time Off
• 2 nights B&B
• *** Julian
• Additional nights £29
• Heathrow, Stansted & Manchester*
£232

BARCELONA 278 Time Off
• 2 nights B&B
• ** Santmaria
• Additional nights £20
• London*, Birmingham & Manchester*
£190

MADRID 253 Sovereign
• 2 nights B&B
• ** Ciper
• Additional nights £20
• Gatwick, Manchester, Heathrow* & Glasgow*
£160

SEVILLE 298 Time Off
• 2 nights B&B
• ** Abril
• Additional nights £19
• Heathrow & Manchester*
£204

* All prices do NOT include airport taxes. All hotels are centrally located and have ensuite bathrooms.
† Some airports require a supplement.
‡ Prices per person based upon 2 sharing a room.
§ ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.
|| For reservations phone Mon to Fri 09.00 to 18.00.
0171-565 6677
CITYTRAVELLER DIRECT LTD

SWIFTCALL
0800 769 0022
LOW COST INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS
For further information on hundreds of other destinations and how to use, call us now for free.

AUSTRALIA 20p
Swiftcall B.T.

GERMANY 16p 28p
Swiftcall B.T.

JAPAN 30p 77p
Swiftcall B.T.

INDIA 60p £1.20
Swiftcall B.T.

NIGERIA 70p £1.05
Swiftcall B.T.

USA 12p 24p
Swiftcall B.T.

0800 769 0022
New phonecards available from all good newsagents.
Distributors urgently required. CALL FREEPHONE 0800 769 0000 NOW.

Mobutu loyalists call on citizens to take up arms in defence of threatened capital

Curfew in Kinshasa as rebels draw near

FROM DAVID ORR IN KINSHASA

ZAIRE, imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Kinshasa last night and called on its citizens to take up arms as rebels edged closer to the capital.

During the curfew, troops would maintain surveillance over the city's strategic areas and open fire on looters, Kin-Kely Muhumba, the Information Minister, said. "There will be identification controls, and the forces of order have been ordered to open fire on anyone pillaging after three summary warnings," he said after a meeting of the national security council.

He said government forces were preparing to defend the capital, and called on civilians to take up arms against the rebels. "The Zairean Army Forces are determined to defend their just cause and will defend Kinshasa and its environs," Mr Muhumba said.

"The Government signals that the population has the legitimate right to defend itself with proportional means to the rebels," he added.

But few preparations have been made so far by Zairean forces for the defence of Kinshasa, despite the steady encroachment of Laurent Kabila's rebel forces from the east.

The curfew was declared in the city after opponents of President Mobutu called for a *ville morte* (dead city) strike from today until Friday.

There is little in the behaviour of either the military or the inhabitants to indicate that the city is under imminent threat of capture by the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire.

The elite Presidential Division has been ordered to fight to the death in defence of Kinshasa, but military observers say that President Mobutu could only rely on the loyalty of half of the unit if an attack was launched on the capital. The number of Garde Civile (National Guard) soldiers who might obey their commanders could be as low as a quarter.

A Western military official in Kinshasa said the Zairean forces had "no loyalty and no training. To defend the capital they would need artillery and engineering equipment. They have some hardware but it hasn't been maintained".

The Zairean Army officially numbers 140,000 men, but analysts believe 75,000 would be more realistic. Less than



Zairean commandos run through streets of Kinshasa as part of their daily routine. Talks today to avert a rebel attack hold the last chance for peace

half of the 30,000 government troops in Kinshasa are believed to be still in their units - the rest have deserted.

"You really wouldn't think an armed force is marching on the city," a military attaché at a Western embassy said. "It's quite bizarre by any military standards. The army commanders are like ostriches, they don't seem to want to

know what's facing them. There is no sense of planning."

The lack of defensive measures being taken points to the steady degree of disintegration which has affected all elements of the armed forces since the rebels launched their insurgency last year. "The army is a shambles," the attaché said. "To forestall the rebel advance, the army

would need to go out of the city and launch a pre-emptive strike. But there is no sign of this happening."

With the rebel force reportedly less than 100 miles from the capital, it seems that only a last-minute diplomatic solution can prevent the violent overthrow of Mr Mobutu. Talks between the ailing President and Mr Kabila, scheduled for today, are widely seen as the last chance for peace.

The United States has already advised its citizens to leave the country and Britain will follow suit if the talks fail.

According to reliable estimates, the rebels could march into Kinshasa within days. "An invasion of Kinshasa could be very bloody," one Mobutu insider said. "The

army would have no option but to fight."

But there is growing speculation that the army will capitulate. In eight months of civil war it has engaged the rebel forces on only a few occasions. The only real resistance to the rebels has been mounted by mercenaries fighting alongside the corrupt and dispirited Zairean Army.

Island's elite win right to power

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN NASSAU

HOMEOWNERS at an exclusive Caribbean island club have won a legal battle with developers who were seeking to close the small resort hotel which provides residents with water and electricity.

On Monday, a judge ordered Arawack, an American company, to keep open its 30-bed hotel at Jumby Bay off the coast of Antigua. Judge Kenneth Benjamin of the High Court of Antigua told Arawack to honour an equity contract with homeowners who have invested in the island.

Residents of Jumby Bay rely on the hotel for power and fresh water, as well as a ferry service between the resort and the mainland. They argued in court that Arawack was obliged to honour a contract with residents who are seeking to preserve the exclusive nature of the island. Arawack, which is 70 per cent owned by John and Harry Mariani, wealthy New York wine distributors, claims the resort is not economically viable. The brothers want to expand the hotel to 100 rooms, turning the island into a more conventional resort.

The homeowners, who include Robin Leach, the broadcaster, the author Ken Follet and his wife, Barbara, the newly-elected Labour MP, and Lord Sainsbury, say they are relieved by the judge's decision but fear the battle is not over.

"I believe that the Marianis are now hibernating on closing down the whole island," Peter Swann, the club chairman and retired British businessman, said. A spokesman for Arawack said the company was studying the judge's ruling before making any comment.

Woman seriously wounded as uniformed guerrillas attack UN staff

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

ARMED men in rebel uniforms have attacked staff of the United Nations Children's Fund at their house in eastern Zaire, amid growing concern about hostility towards aid workers in areas held by Laurent Kabila's Alliance for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire.

At least one of the two international UN staff workers, a woman, was seriously wounded in hospital yesterday after being beaten by five soldiers in Goma, near the Rwandan border, early on Monday.

Alliance officials told UN staff that the assailants could have been trying to discredit the rebels by wearing their uniforms. But a UN source pointed out that the house

was a few hundred yards from local rebel headquarters.

Marie Houze, a UN staff spokeswoman in Geneva, said conditions were "not adequate for relief work". The agency had no immediate plans to leave Goma, but there was clearly disquiet. "If we can't work, then we'll have to decide," she said. Fifty-two malnourished children were kidnapped from a UN staff-funded

hospital in a nearby village two weeks ago, but later released by rebel soldiers. Several robberies have taken place in recent days.

The UN said in Geneva yesterday that it also deplored the way Mr Kabila's rebel alliance had effectively refused entry to an international mission investigating reports of mass killings carried out in eastern Zaire since September. The rebels

were angered by the presence of Roberto Garretón, the UN's special investigator for human rights in Zaire, and set out a series of "unacceptable" conditions.

The UN investigator has repeatedly published witnesses' accounts of mass killings in rebel-held areas. More reports were obtained by the human rights team in Rwanda over the past week. "The task is essential

if the culture of impunity and the vicious cycle of violence in the region are to be broken," Ralph Zacklin, the acting head of the UN Human Rights Centre, said.

The mission, which includes forensic experts, is due to report to the General Assembly on June 30. But one official said that it had received only passive support from Western countries which backed Mr Kabila.

ADVERTISEMENT

Research Results in Direct Customer Benefits

BY NANCY REID

THE DIRECT ARM of insurance giant Norwich Union has plenty of good news for its motor and household policyholders.

Two new policy developments in household insurance confirm that Norwich Union Direct has established its reputation as a leader of the new generation of direct insurers.

When it launched at the beginning of 1996, Norwich Union Direct set out to offer hassle-free and value for money insurance over the phone, following extensive research into public attitudes to buying insurance direct. From the outset Norwich Union Direct has provided its customers with the most convenient access:

6 am - 10 pm week days and 8 am - 4 pm weekends. Managing director Patrick Smith tells us "Our research confirmed the importance of price to customers, so we make sure our premiums are highly competitive. However, people are also discerning about the type of cover they need and are looking further than price alone to see exactly what they're getting for their money."

Research continues into customer requirements, resulting in an innovative new policy for householders called Ultimate Appliance Breakdown Cover - which could make extended warranties a thing of the

past. It offers protection against mechanical and electrical breakdown of major domestic appliances - including cookers, fridges, washing machines, televisions, hi-fi equipment, videos, microwaves and dishwashers. Customers choose from two levels of cover - for appliances up to 5 years old, and for appliances up to eight years old. A low monthly premium covers repair costs, including call-out charges, parts and labour. Premiums start from £6.99 per month.

The second development is improved no-claim discounts on contents insurance - said to be among the most competitive on the market. Discounts of up to 30 per cent reward non claimants. Unlike many insurers, Norwich Union Direct customers will qualify for 10 per cent discount on their premiums after just one single year without a claim.

These innovations, combined with the convenience of organising insurance over the telephone have seen an increasing number of car owners and householders switch to this direct insurer. To find out if you could save money on your insurance, call Norwich Union Direct for a free quotation today. Ring 0800 888 222 for home cover and 0800 888 777 for Ultimate Appliance Breakdown Cover.

Sue's Story

When 36 year old Sue Knowles' cooker broke down, she returned home from the theatre with her husband to find the supper still raw in the oven. What turned this small catastrophe into an impending disaster was their expected weekend guests.

The major problem was not the cost - although it was £80 for the part plus labour - said Sue. "It was the inconvenience of trying to find someone to fix it and fast."

marketing position in the head office of a US food warehouse giant means she is out of the house for up to 12 hours a day, having no time to ring around tradesmen to find the best value.

"If Ultimate Appliance Breakdown Cover had been available then, just one phone call to their helpline and my problems would have been solved" she said. "It is certainly an innovation that attracts me."

For more information, and to arrange cover, call 0800 888 777.



Sue Knowles avoids kitchen crises

Company Director SAVES £125 at home

COMPANY DIRECTOR

Anthony Hesse made an excellent deal for himself when he shopped around for building and contents insurance on his four bedroom detached house in Englefield Green - and saved himself £125.

Thirty nine year old Anthony who runs Property Personnel, a recruitment company, applied business logic when it came to insuring his home. "My company matches up people and positions, looking at the requirements of both and judging if they will offer value for money. It is exactly the same with insurance - you need to get a good deal, to find out what is available and what best suits your requirements" he said.

Anthony and his wife Brid received renewal notices for their buildings and contents insurance, both due in the same month - so were particularly keen to look for a good deal, Anthony said. "We shopped around, getting quotes from three different companies, all of whom were



Anthony Hesse and Family

better than our existing insurer. Out of the three, Norwich Union Direct offered the best and cheapest deal. Now we are paying £250.35 annual premium.

"However, it is not just price saving, you also want to deal with someone you can trust - and that is why I chose Norwich Union Direct. They handle my car

insurance, and deal with a claim I had very efficiently - so I know I will get good service from them. If you treat people properly - whether in the recruitment or insurance business - you will get their loyalty and retain their business."

To find out if you too could save money, call 0800 888 222 for a free quotation.

IN BRIEF

Now it's even Simpler

DRIVERS who can't remember specific details of their car - its engine size or the exact model - will no longer have problems when getting car insurance over the phone. If they call Norwich Union Direct. They are the first insurers to install a high-tech system whereby when the caller gives the registration number, all relevant vehicle details appear on a screen within seconds. To find out how fast you could obtain a quote which could also save you money, call 0800 888 111 now - and remember to have your registration number handy.

Save £££s at Home

SECURITY conscious householders who fit approved locks, key operated window locks and burglar alarms could save money on their contents insurance with Norwich Union Direct. Ring free on 0800 888 222.

Always on a Sunday

FOR INSURANCE cover at your convenience, one company who are available every day of the week - including Sundays - is Norwich Union Direct. Call free on 0800 888 111 for your car and 0800 888 222 for cover on your home.

More Policies More Savings

WITH Norwich Union Direct the more policies you have the more money you save. In addition to the already competitive rates, when you take out a second policy - whether home or motor insurance - you'll get a further 5 per cent off both policies. To find out if you can save, call free on 0800 888 111 for motor and 0800 888 222 for home quotes.

How you could save

AN INDEPENDENT research firm was asked to check out three insurance companies to see how much they would charge a married couple, both aged 36, with no previous claims, for household and car cover.

Norwich Union Direct's quotes were cheaper in all the areas surveyed. The

savings ranged from almost £60 for car cover in Norwich to an impressive £258 on house insurance in London.

To find out if you too could save, call Norwich Union Direct free on 0800 888 111 for your car and 0800 888 222 for your home insurance needs.

MOTOR INSURANCE			
Quotes are based on husband as principal driver of a Rover 216 GSi, 10,000 annual mileage. No security device but is garaged. 5 years No Claims Discount.			
INSURER	LONDON NW1	MANCHESTER M21	NORWICH NR10
Norwich Union Direct	£256	£283	£166
Direct Line	£299	£299	£190
Churchill	£296	£315	£225
HOME INSURANCE			
Quotes are based on £21,000 home contents cover & £70,000 buildings cover for a 1990's three bedroom detached house.			
INSURER	LONDON NW1	MANCHESTER M21	NORWICH NR10
Norwich Union Direct	£248	£273	£134
Direct Line	£340	£328	£163
Churchill	£306	£302	£178

NORWICH UNION Direct

Call us FREE quoting Ref: TSA4

Home: 0800 888 222

or Ultimate Appliance Breakdown Cover:

0800 888 777

or Motor: 0800 888 111

Home & Motor Quotes also available on the internet - <http://www.norwich-union.co.uk>

Not available in N. Ireland

Please Note, for your protection, all calls are logged and regularly monitored. Norwich Union Direct is part of Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd

Newspaper backs down over CIA drug deal claims

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN A highly publicised correction, a California newspaper has acknowledged that its allegations of CIA involvement in spreading crack cocaine among urban blacks were seriously flawed.

Despite the admission by the *San Jose Mercury News*, the CIA said yesterday it would continue to investigate the allegations that its agents were linked to drug smuggling.

The newspaper's expose caused an uproar and led to heated protests by black politicians last August. It alleged that the CIA protected two Nicaraguan drug traffickers who introduced crack to black neighbourhoods of Los Angeles and sent millions of dollars in profits back home. The money was to support the Contras, a guerrilla force largely financed by the CIA to fight the Marxist-led Sandinista Government.

"Crack was virtually unobtainable in black neighbourhoods before members of the CIA's army began bringing it into South-Central LA," the series said.

The suggestion was so shocking that John Deutch, then director of the agency, flew to the South-Central area to reassure a crowded town meeting. He was given a hostile reception.

Jerry Ceppos, editor of the *Mercury News*, assigned seven reporters and editors to re-examine the series before writing that the newspaper's implication about the CIA and the crack explosion was an "over-simplification".

Although members of the drug ring did meet Contra leaders paid by the CIA, the paper had no proof that top CIA officials knew of the relationship, Mr Ceppos wrote.

He added that in making its error, the newspaper fell short of its standards at every step of the writing, editing and production of the series. Registering strong disagreement was Gary Webb, author of the series, who described his editor's column as bizarre, misleading and nauseating. He is still employed by the paper, despite protests by numerous staff members.

In his explanation to readers, Mr Ceppos said the series, called "Dark Alliance", not only implied CIA knowledge

of a crack-selling ring linked to the Contras but did not include CIA comment in response to the paper's findings, as it should have done. "Our contract with readers is to be as clear about what we don't know as what we know," he wrote.

The series implied that drug runners who were Contra sympathisers had been the pivotal force in the crack epidemic in the United States when in fact the roots of the drug's spread were much more complex, Mr Ceppos admitted.

Mr Webb, the reporter, claimed he had been abandoned by the *Mercury News*, with a circulation of 285,000, and that he had more information to confirm his original assertions. Mr Ceppos said that the notes would be looked at.

The series was challenged last autumn by three major newspapers, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times* and *The New York Times*, none of which found clear evidence of a direct link between the drug dealers and CIA.

The CIA said its independent inspector-general was conducting a thorough review of allegations raised by the paper and would report by the end of the year. Maxine Waters, a Democratic black congresswoman for Los Angeles, said she was troubled by the episode. The paper's admission did not alter the fact that Nicaraguan drug traffickers sold crack and sent the profits home, whether the CIA knew or not.

Overpayment by Pentagon

Washington: The Pentagon has overpaid contractors by hundreds of millions of dollars, in part because its antiquated computers cannot "talk" to one another, according to a report released yesterday (Ian Brodie writes).

The General Accounting Office said the Defence Department had more than a hundred different accounting systems. Sometimes the same procedures that are used to account for sweets for a children's centre were used to track costly weapons' programmes.

Syphilis survivors win apology

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

PRESIDENT Clinton will formally apologise on Friday to the survivors and descendants of 400 black men who were used as guinea pigs in a notorious medical study.

The "Tuskegee experiment" — named after the small town in Alabama where it took place — was a secret government study of "untreated syphilis in the Negro male". It began in 1932 and ended only after it was uncovered by newspaper reporters in 1972. Its purpose was to see what would happen if the disease was left untreated.

The black sharecroppers of

Tuskegee were lured into government clinics with the promise of free medical treatment.

There, doctors identified the men who suffered from syphilis and earmarked them for the study.

The men were left untreated or offered placebos instead of medicine while the doctors observed how they deteriorated over time.

No one was offered a consent form to sign, nor even told the real purpose of the study. All but eight of the men have died.

In response to a lawsuit, the US Government set up a \$9 million (£5.5 million) compensation fund for the survivors and their families. They were

also given lifelong medical benefits. But campaigners and civil rights groups have fought for a presidential apology.

Many have come to regard the Tuskegee experiment as a metaphor for medical racism in America. Albert Jukes, the son of one of the sharecroppers used in the study, told *The New York Times* recently: "It was one of the worst atrocities ever heaped on people by the Government. You don't treat dogs that way."

Yesterday, a White House aide said: "We consider it a moral obligation to apologise on behalf of the Government of the United States for what happened in Tuskegee, Alabama."



The strike force in action: two members of the team try to calm tempers after coming on a drink-driving car accident in a Boston suburb

'Gangbuster cops' win Boston war

Tom Rhodes reports from Boston on the success of an undercover police unit tackling youth crime



THE two members of the Vamp Hill Kings, some of Boston's most vicious black street thugs, swiftly parted company as police officer Ken Israel parked his unmarked Ford at the corner of Ridgewood Street in the city's gangland. Both were alleged killers known to Officer Israel and his fellow plainclothes colleagues. Officers Dave Silegany and Larry Celester, James Earl Jones, the gold insignia of his gang on a chain around his neck, smiled at the policemen: "What's up, bro? Nothing doing here," Rubin McCray, the more violent of the two, shuffled to the other side of the street and said nothing.

"He'll have a gun somewhere close by. You can count on that. But he knows we're around and he won't try anything," said Officer Silegany, his diamond earrings glittering in the headlights. Without the concealed flak jackets, guns and handcuffs, and the small letters of the Boston Police Department stitched to their rollock jumpers, the officers would be indistinguishable from the gang members. That is exactly how they want it.

The three were all raised in the crime-ridden districts of Roxbury and Dorchester and now belong to Boston's elite Youth Violence Strike Force, the front line of a united defence that has brought the city national and international acclaim. Scratchyde has sent

its senior officers to analyse the tactics as a possible model for Glasgow. Tom Merino, Boston's Mayor, was in London last month promoting the city's crime-busting success to the Metropolitan Police.

President Clinton launched his fight against juvenile crime in Boston three months ago. Hundreds of police in the United States, from Alabama to New York, have requested seats at a strategy seminar here this month.

Boston has recaptured its streets from the terror of gang warfare. The Boston Miracle, as it is called, has reduced violent crime by almost 50 per cent in two years, a statistic

unimaginable in 1990 when the murder rate hit a record yearly high of 152. Then hundreds of gangs had turned sections of Roxbury and Dorchester into combat zones, spraying streets with bullets over drug territories the police seemed unable to control.

Almost no one under 25 dared to walk through the housing projects or basketball courts. Drug dealers carried out shootings in cars and on bicycles. The gangs disrupted the courts at will, failed to heed probation orders and intimidated so many witnesses that one judge called for the National Guard to secure law and order.

But today, armed with an innovative, low-cost programme that has united all arms of the criminal defence system and which is backed by the clergy, schools and even research from Harvard, Boston is winning the war.

A paper by the Kennedy School at Harvard showed that 75 per cent of Boston crime was committed by about 1,300 people. Almost all are now known to members of Operation Ceasefire, which Officer Israel, last year, snatched dropped to a 30-year low of 59.

The number of non-lethal shootings was halved between 1995 and 1996. School violence is down 20 per cent. Most remarkable of all, at a time when US teenagers are 12 times more likely to die in crossfire than their counter-

parts in the rest of the industrialised world, no Boston teenager under 17 has been killed by a gun or a knife since July 1995.

"We were tripping over shell cases in 1990," said Paul Evans, Boston's police commissioner. "Back then, there were serious questions about the viability of the city. We really had no sense of the gang structure, and not very good intelligence."

"We were just reacting to murder after murder. Now we have a proactive, comprehensive and collaborative effort to combat gang crime."

Commissioner Evans holds twice-weekly crime analysis meetings with all the captains of his districts at which plans are formulated. The strategy is simple. Officer Israel and his colleagues provide an intelligence network, based on trust, combined with a "zero tolerance" towards gangs, guns and drugs. Warrants for the smallest offence — traffic violations and even unpaid parking tickets — can lead to immediate arrest.

Probation officers have joined forces with the police to visit clients unannounced. The commissioners believe blanket curfews are unworkable, but court order violations are acted on immediately. Judges have jailed whole gangs.

"Two years ago we wouldn't have dared come here alone," said Officer Israel. "The most important thing we have done is take fear off the streets."

Gingrich pitches in

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN A conspicuous show of volunteerism, members of Congress, led by Newt Gingrich, yesterday promised to roll up their sleeves and build houses for two poor families in a blighted area of Washington.

Mr Gingrich, the Republican House Speaker, announced the bipartisan scheme for the "Houses that Congress Built" while the families who will benefit and will own the new houses beamed at his side. Dozens of members of Congress, their relatives and staff, have promised to pitch in to help. Work starts next month and

the families hope to be settled in by October, when they will throw a thank-you party for the "sweet equity" expended by their distinguished building crew.

The homes are sponsored by Habitat for Humanity, the volunteer organisation, for which Jimmy Carter, the former President, has been bailing in for the past 20 years. Its founder, Millard Fuller, describes the concept of serving others through manual labour as the "theology of the hammer".

By next year every member of Congress will be invited to build a Habitat home in his or her own constituency. The organisation also plans to extend its activities abroad.

Disney finds less is Moore

Los Angeles: Hollywood's best-paid actress is so unpopular with audiences that her latest film has been withdrawn from its summer release date so that the studio can rethink its marketing campaign (Giles Whittell writes).

Demi Moore, who commands \$125 million (£8 million) per film, appears in a forthcoming Disney drama entitled *G.I. Jane* as a navy lieutenant hoping to become the first female member of the elite Navy SEALs.

But audiences are unimpressed. Test screenings revealed deep misgivings about Moore, if not the film, a Disney executive admitted. "We don't know what to do," he told *Newsweek*. "People just don't want to see her."

The actress who made her name in *Ghost* and *A Few Good Men* has recently had three big flops: *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Juror*, and *Striptease*. The last of these featured Ms Moore as a desperate single mother dancing in nothing but nipple tassels to support her child. It eventually recouped its costs but appears to have irrevocably cheapened its star's image.



Moore: closely cropped for her starring role in *G.I. Jane*

Expectations are high at Nevada school

New York: A high school in Nevada has been hit by a blizzard of protest after it included photographs of the school's many pregnant students in its yearbook (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

By tradition, there is no text more wholesome in America than a school yearbook. Yet the Battle Mountain High School — in Battle Mountain — has dared to flout the norms of the genre this year by running a two-page feature on birth rates and expectancy in the school's classrooms.

The feature, entitled "Don't drink the water", was intended to be funny, but local teenage pregnancy prevention groups have not yet seen the joke. Carol Hensley, a co-chairwoman of the Battle Mountain Community Against Teen Pregnancy Committee, said: "I think our whole team's opinion is that the yearbook is glorifying teen pregnancy. It is just glossing over the seriousness of children having children."

Tony, here's a policy that'll never let you down.

low cost motor insurance with money back guarantees, call now for a quote.

0800 11 22 33

help

FIX YOUR MORTGAGE RATE BEFORE THEY GO THROUGH THE ROOF

FirstMortgage use a panel of lenders whose mortgages are subject to status and security. Written quotations available on request. For full details of our mortgage offers, please contact FirstMortgage, Regal House, 70 London Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 3QD. We may monitor your call to this office as an aid to improving the quality of our service to you. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Just one quick call to arrange your mortgage on

0800 0800 88

Call 8am - 7pm Monday - Friday

Quote code T7005

FirstMortgage
the direct choice

SWEDEN WITH VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING OFF

11p PER MINUTE ON 3RD AUGUST

Call Sweden on the 3rd August, talk for 5 minutes or more and all it will cost is 11p per minute. And remember, we're still at least 20% cheaper for international calls weekday evenings and all weekend. These are the bare facts. For details FreeCall 0500 500 366 and quote ref RSTMSR.

Mercury SmartCall

Prices and savings shown are as at 1 May 1997. Compared to BT's standard rates for international calls of 5 minutes or more, 11p per minute, and any rate at weekends. SmartCall is available for a quantity of 100 calls. All calls subject to a 2.5p connection charge. All prices are in pence.

Japanese envoy to Lima sacked over hostage ordeal

FROM ROBERT WEYMANT IN TOKYO

THE Japanese Ambassador to Peru, who won praise for his handling of the four-month ordeal as a hostage of the Tupac Amaru rebels, has lost his job for failing to anticipate the attack on his Lima residence.

Motomasa Aoki, 58, discovered that his career was over during parliamentary questioning yesterday on the extent of his responsibility for the security lapses that allowed the Lima hostage crisis to occur. Without betraying a flicker of emotion, he listened as Yukihiko Ikeda, the Foreign Minister, announced that the Government had decided to accept his offer to resign.

The Ambassador had been summoned to parliament to explain why he had decided to host a gala party to celebrate the birthday of Japan's Emperor on December 17 last year, which was attacked by guerrillas of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), who raided the residence and took hundreds of guests hostage. Most were freed soon afterwards.

The hostage crisis ended on April 22 when Peruvian commandos stormed the residence. One of the 72 hostages and two soldiers died in the raid, in which all 14 rebels were killed. But Mr Aoki's ordeal has continued ever since with his handling of the crisis coming under critical analysis in Japan.

During his testimony, Mr Aoki apologised for "an incident that caused massive pain to a number of people". But he denied that he had been forewarned of a terrorist attack or refused extra security offered by Peruvian authorities on the day of the reception. On the contrary, he said he had been told by police that the terrorists were inactive, and there was little risk of an attack. Nevertheless, he had reinforced security by deploying an extra 14 or 15 men to join the seven guards on duty, he said. That was ample for such a reception.

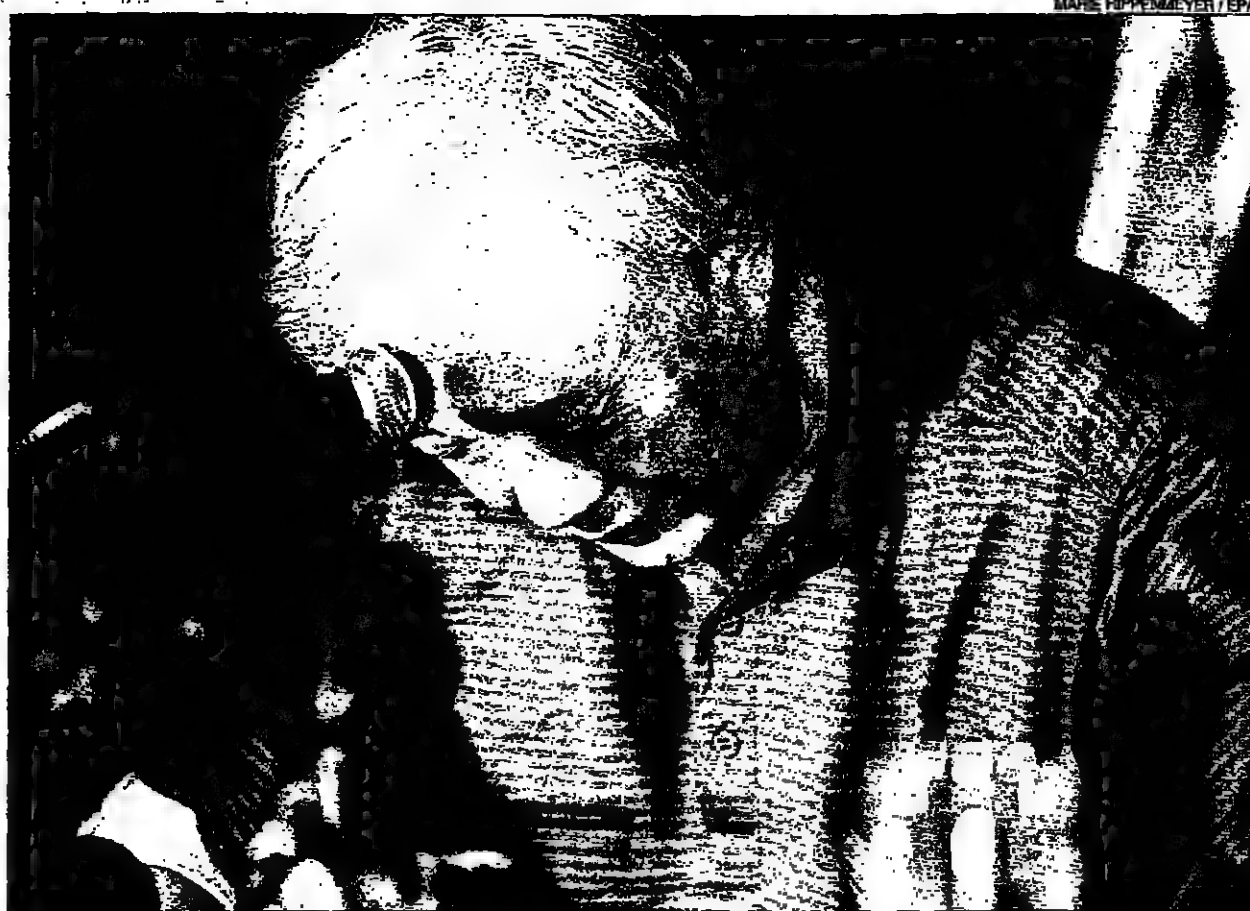
Mr Aoki was reported to have conducted himself during the siege with the fortitude of the samurai warrior class

from which he is descended. When the rebels' gunfire sent guests at the reception diving for cover, Mr Aoki stood his ground, appealing to the attackers to stop shooting. As the siege dragged on, he engaged the guerrillas in a dialogue that blunted their aggressive edge.

But on his return to Japan his heroic image began to fade. Mr Aoki annoyed some Japanese journalists with his abrasive response to their questions. Astonishingly, he came in for criticism for chain-smoking during a news conference, considered unseemly behaviour in a public servant, even one who had endured 127 days of captivity.

But his most serious sin, in a society that sets great store by displays of repentance, was that he initially failed to make a sufficiently "sincere" apology to the nation for security lapses. In the view of some members of parliament.

Even so, the Government's decision to relieve Mr Aoki of his post was unexpected. Though he submitted his res-



Morihisa Aoki, the Japanese Ambassador to Peru, shortly after he and the other hostages were released last month

ignation last week, it was seen as a symbolic gesture, and Mr Aoki had expressed a wish to return to Peru to resume his duties.

His departure signalled the end of a career for an ambassador who was closely linked

by his family to Latin America. Mr Aoki's father and grandfather were both also well-known Japanese diplomats in the region.

It is not clear when Mr Aoki's resignation will take effect or if he will remain in

Japan's diplomatic service. Prior to his Peru assignment, Mr Aoki was a senior official of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the aid arm of the Foreign Ministry.

He also served as a Deputy Foreign Minister and chief of

the ministry's intelligence and research bureau.

Quake damage: A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.2 hit Japan's southern island of Kyushu yesterday, injuring 27 people and damaging some houses. (AP)

WORLD SUMMARY

Rush-hour bomb in Beijing

Beijing: A bomb went off last night in central Beijing next to the Forbidden City, writes James Pringle. The explosion occurred at rush-hour in a park near Tiananmen Square. Officials linked the blast to Muslim separatists in Xinjiang. No one was reported to have been injured.

The last bomb blast reported in the city was in early March, when eight people were injured. Violent crime is on the rise in China, despite the recent "strike hard" campaign in which more than 2,000 people were executed.

Big response to Iran plea

Nicosia: The Red Cross praised the international response to its Iranian earthquake appeal as one of the most swift and generous ever, as more than half the £5 million requested was raised by Monday (Michael Theodorou writes). Iran, meanwhile, lowered the total of victims of the Saturday quake to 1,560 killed and 2,810 injured from the earlier casualty toll of 2,400 dead and 6,000 injured.

China rebuke for Manila

Manila: China has warned the Philippines that relations could be jeopardised if Manila's naval forces made further intrusions near the contested Spratlys in the South China Sea (Abby Tan writes). Beijing accused Manila of driving away Chinese fishing boats and of disrupting a joint international amateur radio exploration activity in the area last month.

Volcano alert for airlines

Mexico City: Aircraft were banned from flying near the Popocatepetl volcano as fresh plumes of ash shot high into the sky and were carried by winds 140 miles east to the Gulf of Mexico. But officials appealed for calm in villages surrounding the volcano, which has been rumbling since December 1994. (AP)

Witch report

Kampala: A new commission of "super witches" is to use its extraordinary powers to stamp out malpractice after a series of suspicious deaths, the Ugandan government newspaper New Vision said. (AFP)

Colony wins civil rights reprieve

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

TUNG CHEE-HWA, the Chief Executive-designate, appears set to retreat over his proposed restrictions on civil rights in Hong Kong, after widespread local and international alarm.

The move, which is a profound political reversal, must have been approved by the Beijing leadership and, if so, marks a setback for Chinese and local hardliners.

Mr Tung's office has hinted that he will deliver a speech this week to announce the rolling back of his initial plans that would have required protesters to apply for police approval to stage demonstrations, and to bar foreigners from funding political groups in the colony. An adviser to Mr Tung said: "The hardliners got their way with the original drafting. I think you'll be surprised by how different the final law is."

The impending climbdown was signalled last week by Henry Tang, a member of Mr Tung's Executive Council. He said "liberal proposals" to cut restrictions on political activity would be "finalised" this week. Bills will be tabled before the Beijing-appointed Provisional Legislative Council on Saturday.

Mr Tung is a member of both the wholly elected Legislative Council and the Beijing-

appointed body due to take its place after the handover on July 1.

One of Mr Tung's original proposals states that those intending to protest must seek the permission of police, who would decide whether the potential demonstration threatens "national security". The Bar Council and the Law Society condemned it as a throwback to the repressive laws of the colonial period.



Crewmen from HMS Trenchant, the Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarine, disembark yesterday after the vessel arrived in Hong Kong. She is part of the task force assisting the British withdrawal.

Mr Tang has suggested that the proposed law could be redrafted to resemble the one in existence today, under which protesters merely notify police. He said if there was no police response after a certain period it could be "deemed" that approval had been given.

The second proposed law, that led to a backlash from the legal profession, academics and journalists, would have required political parties to

register with police. It would also have made it illegal for "aliens" to donate money to political parties.

Mr Tang conceded that "the net has been cast too wide" and noted that foreigners with residence rights in Hong Kong, such as the more than 150,000 workers from the Philippines here, and "someone walking past a collection box and throwing in ten dollars" should be able legitimately to make contributions.

For several weeks the Beijing-aligned Liberal Party, of which Mr Tang is a leading member, has been suggesting that Mr Tung's proposed laws should be modified.

Mr Tung is now in a position to tell Beijing that he has vigorously defended savage cuts in restrictions to Hong Kong's civil rights laws. These have now met reasoned objection in Hong Kong and provoked warnings from the United States about the colony's international standing after the handover.

Beijing is also well placed to say that under "one country, two systems" it has listened to the voice of Hong Kong and urged Mr Tung to be sensible and sympathetic. If this attitude was translated into less stringent civil rights rules, Mr Tung would have a far easier local and international ride.

Fishermen found after 150 days

Majuro: Two Kiribati fishermen lost at sea in a 12 ft boat five months ago have turned up alive in the Marshall Islands long after they were given up for dead. The two arrived here yesterday and flew home.

Takuru Katatia, of Betio, said that on December 10 he and his nephew Tamango Teitika, from Maiana Atoll, were out on a fishing trip between the atoll of Kiribati, and Maiana, an island about 25 miles to the south.

They were making their third trip of the day between the two islands, taking their catches back to Maiana, when bad weather blew up and they lost their way.

Their odyssey continued until they sighted land at Mill Atoll in the southern Marshalls last Friday, 150 days after they were lost and 350 miles northwest of where they were lost.

As the sun beat down on them day after day, their eyes became swollen and their mouths and tongues cracked and blistered. However, they had fishing lines and hooks on board, so were able to catch fish. Over the five months, they saw a number of ships passing at a distance, but none saw them. (AFP)

'Unelectable' Peres slow to surrender party leadership

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ALMOST a year after Shimon Peres lost his fifth general election as Labour leader, Israel's main opposition party yesterday began formal proceedings to dump him. The move provoked envious comparisons with the speed of John Major's exit as leader of the Conservatives.

Mr Peres, 73, has stubbornly refused to retire gracefully, insisting that a new post of Active Party President should be created for him, and soft-pedalling his opposition to the accident-prone Government of Benjamin Netanyahu in the vain hope of being invited to join a new coalition.

Supporters of Ehud Barak, 55, the former Chief of Staff and Foreign Minister who is favourite to succeed Mr Peres when internal elections are staged on June 3, expressed fury and frustration at what they saw as the Labour Party leader's reluctance to stand down with dignity and surrender power to a younger generation.

In addition to Mr Barak, three other contenders will stand on June 3 to lead Labour against Mr Netan-

yahu in 2000: Yossi Beilin, 48, a key architect of the Oslo peace process; Ephraim Sneh, 52, former Health Minister and rank outsider; and Shlomo Ben-Ami, 53, the former ambassador to Spain.

After the unedifying sight of Mr Peres, the 1994 Nobel Peace Laureate, struggling to hang on to some trappings of power after a defeat which led even Labour Party faithful to pronounce him "unelectable", Mr Major's behaviour has been repeatedly held up as an example of correct democratic practice.

Meanwhile, another upset hit the Netanyahu administration yesterday, with the resignation of Israel's new Ambassador to Jordan after only eight days in the post.

In a sharp resignation letter, Oded Eran, one of only two Israeli envoys serving in the Arab world, complained that he had been left in the dark over last week's secret talks in Aqaba between Mr Netanyahu and King Hussein. Mr Netanyahu's office said it had been the job of Israel's Foreign Ministry to inform the ambassador of the meeting.

STRAIGHT TALK, GREAT VALUE COMPUTER BUYING MADE EASY, BY THE EXPERTS

BUDGET 133 MULTI-MEDIA SYSTEM

- Intel 133MHz Pentium Processor
- Upgradable to MMX™ technology
- High Performance Intel 82430 Vx Chipset Motherboard
- 16MB Fast EDO RAM
- 256K Pipeline Burst Cache
- 1.3GB Fast IDE-HDD
- 14" SVGA Colour Monitor
- Fast 1MB EDO RAM 64-bit PCI SVGA Windows Accelerator card
- Modem/KB with 1.2 speed
- Multitasking CD-ROM, 16 bit Sound Card and 36 Watt Speakers
- Mouse
- Windows 95

£699 ex VAT **£821** inc VAT

NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL 1998 OPTION AVAILABLE

0% HOME MEDIA OPTION **£769** ex VAT **£903** inc VAT

Pay nothing until 1998. Specifications as above plus a stack of home entertainment software (8 titles) and headphones with microphone.

REPAYMENT EXAMPLE

PC cost price £927.01 inc. delivery £20+VAT @ 17.5%. Pay whole balance on or before the payment date stated here. Alternatively, pay 36 monthly payments of £22.95. Total amount payable £1,252.56. APR 17.5%. When options upon request. Finance subject to status.

17.9%

WHY YOU SHOULD BUY FROM TINY

- Friendly, expert staff who are there to help and advise
- Full back-up and service after delivery
- We manufacture our own PCs and sell direct through a national chain of showrooms
- No middleman means the best deals anywhere. Compare our prices; they're guaranteed to be the lowest
- Make sure you know what you're buying. Can your system be upgraded by adding the latest MMX™ technology?



CALL IN AT YOUR LOCAL STORE

BIRMINGHAM 79 Smallbrook, Queensway	LONDON W1 Sonic Foto Centre, 256 Tottenham Court Rd
BRIGHTON 40 London Rd, Brighton, (opp Co-op Dept store)	LONDON SW10 300 Fulham Road, Chelsea (in Fulham Road)
BRISTOL Union Gallery, The Galleries Shopping Centre, Broadmead	LONDON EC2 Liverpool Street Arcade, Liverpool Street (opp BFI)
CARDIFF 91 St. Mary St, (near City Hall, opp Morgan Arcade)	MANCHESTER Piccadilly Plaza, Mosley Street
CHELMSFORD 3 Market Road, (opp County Hall)	NEWCASTLE High Fries, (Monument entrance) Eldon Square
GLoucester 15 St. Georges Walk, (opp City Hall)	NORWICH 15 Westgate (opp McDonald's)
GLoucester 52 Queen Street	NOTTINGHAM Upper Mall, (West to Bus, The Victoria Centre)
ILFORD The Exchange Centre	OXFORD 2 King Edward Street
KINGSTON 8 Castle Street, (in Clocks Sandwich Shop)	READING Broad Street Mall, (Upper Level - opp Ford Court)
LEEDS Theatre Walk (Opp Floor), The Meadow Centre	SHEFFIELD 54 Cambridge Street (opp Henry's)
LEICESTER 9 Balgavay Gate, Haymarket Centre	SOUTHAMPTON The Bagshot Shopping Centre, (Ground Floor)
LIVERPOOL 71 Bold Street, (opp Forbidden Planet)	WATFORD 42 Charter Place (Upper Level - opp C&A)

TINY

CALL NOW ON FREEPHONE 0800 821 333

TINY COMPUTERS LIMITED, REDHILL BUSINESS PARK, BONEHURST ROAD, SALFORDS, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 5YB.

All trademarks acknowledged. All prices and manufacturers specifications are subject to change without notice. Please check availability before ordering. Goods are offered for sale subject to standard conditions of sale available on request. E&OE. Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, and MMX is a trademark of the Intel Corporation. Prices exclude delivery.

Cherie, your country needs you

Who will save Labour's idealistic, visionary and utterly dowdy Class of '97 from years of brightly coloured polyester?

It was the Editor of *Vogue* who came up with one of the saddest reflections of the post-election hangover. She was, she confided to *The Guardian* this week, fascinated by the outfits worn by the 96 new Labour Babes clustered around Tony Blair in a victory rally on the steps of Church House. "I'm interested in *Vogue* sort of not being in a different world to them," she said. But on closer investigation, it proved impossible to find even one new MP with sufficient glamour to appear in the pages of her magazine.

Well, looking at *That Photograph*, you rather see what she means. Clustered around their leader, all got up for the occasion in what are presumably their very best outfits, the female arm of the Labour Party looks like nothing so much as an exceptionally nasty example of municipal planting — Margaret Beckett in shrieking geranium pink; Ann Taylor in blinding lobelia blue; Linda Ferham in cruel French marigold orange and Patricia Hewitt in a jacket covered in writhing herbage of a kind usually heralded by a sign reading "Britain in Bloom, runner-up, 1997". Now municipal planting has many advantages — it is impervious to sudden storms; mud does not stick to it; it is resistant to all the slimy pests and blights that congregate to attack it — its horticultural and political virtues are legion. What it is not, however, is attractive.

Still, the Editor of *Vogue*, accustomed as she is to dealing on a daily basis with Naomi and Linda and Cindy and Kate, perhaps exaggerates a little. Can there really be no one at all among the Blairites with a sense of style? It is not that one expects one's political representatives to



JANE SHILLING GETS DRESSED

waft into the chamber, trailing yards of leopardskin chiffon from Dolce & Gabbana (though why not, actually?). We are, of course, already intimate with the wardrobes of such Tory ladies as have held on to their seats, and there is certainly not much joy to be found there — but surely among the new blood, one might expect a little glamour.

Let us look again at the photograph. Of the very back row of ladies, only their windblown hairdos and sensible glasses are visible. Perhaps from the neck down they are miracles of inspired dressing. Or then again, perhaps they follow the pattern of their all-too-visible colleagues in the front rows, with their terrible shoes, their skirts brutally terminated at midcalf or bang on the knee-cap; their ill-cut jackets (every single shoulder pad a good inch too wide — the result, no doubt, of the baleful influence of Barbara Follett, she of the bile-green two-piece and criminally matching court shoes).

This being new Labour, there is, to be sure, no question of effort not being made. On the contrary, the stilted poses, the dreadful hair, somehow unkempt and over-lacquered both at the same time, the fussy little scarves and jaunty bits of costume jewellery all bellow effort with deafening clarity. So why does the team photograph of Mr Blair's new girls so eerily resemble a convention of successful, Avon Ladies? Did their constituencies make them swear an oath, on pain of deselection, to wear nothing but ill-fitting polyester two-pieces?

Painful as it is to admit, they do these things better in France, where the election campaign is still in full swing, with a record number of women candidates, quantities of whom have appeared in a photo-shoot for *Paris-Match*. Like their British counterparts, the French candidates come in a variety of shapes and ages. The difference is that the Editor of *Vogue* would have not the slightest difficulty in filling her entire magazine with political glamour-pusses from across the Channel.

Ignoring, for a moment, the candidates come in a variety of shapes and ages. The difference is that the Editor of *Vogue* would have not the slightest difficulty in filling her entire magazine with political glamour-pusses from across the Channel.



Patricia Hewitt: writhing herbage

painful injury to our national self-esteem, let us examine the reasons for this. To begin with, it has nothing to do with looks. One or two of the Frenchwomen are beauties, it is true — at the age of 48, Elisabeth Guigou, President Mitterrand's former Minister for Europe, and a graduate of ENA, the fearsomely competitive school for administrators, was photographed for *Paris-Match* by Helmut Newton — but most, like the Brits, have the pleasant, ordinary faces of the ordinary women they are. Nor do the French give the impression of being addicted to couture. Indeed, many of the candidates are very young — in their mid-twenties — and evidently dressed on a modest budget. But their hair is properly cut and shining, their jewellery is real, their shoes are elegant and polished. Above all, they look comfortable in their skins. They look, in fact, sexy.

Now sexiness is not a quality much valued in British politics, where it makes the chaps come over all uncomfortable. English political commentators, confronted with Mme Guigou during her ministerial years, tended to burble incoherently about *key glamour and seduction froide*. "Intelligence has never been a hindrance to sexiness in France," wrote one, rather wistfully.

This is not a view that has penetrated as far as the boys' club of the House of Commons, where intelligence and sexiness among the female members are regarded as not merely incompatible but thoroughly reprehensible.

In France, it is not merely possible to be clever and sexy — it is positively necessary. It is a way of getting what you want — and also, to be sure, a way of making life more amusing. Why, after all, wear a hideous frock to debate the EMF when it is just as easy to wear a pretty one?

In England, for some reason, women who aspire to both power and sexiness are regarded with grave suspicion. Not individually, of course — many politicians have wives of notable intelligence and allure, without whom they would be in very bad trouble indeed — but en masse, where there exists the possibility that they might get the upper hand, they still provoke a remarkable degree of fear and loathing.

It is surely an unconscious acknowledgment of that fact that lies behind the apologetic demeanour of those women in their moment of triumph outside Church House. There they all are, doing what British women do best — trying to fade into the background, lest anyone notice they have made an attempt to look attractive and punish them for it.

What is to become of the Class of '97 — so idealistic, so committed to change, so full of vision, so unutterably dowdy? Really, someone should take the lot of them in hand before it is too late, and they have



Frédérique Bredin, left, Elisabeth Guigou, and Ségolène Royal — all former French ministers, all comfortable in their skins



Tony Blair surrounded by his team of women MPs, who so eerily resemble a convention of successful Avon Ladies

SOMETIMES THE PERFECT LIFE CAN BE ABSOLUTE MURDER

THE BIG PICTURE

Douglas Kennedy

From the picket fences of New England to Montana's untouchable splendour, *The Big Picture* spans states and states of mind

"Cracking, palm tingling tension... meticulously plotted. A completely convincing imaginative performance" *The Times*

£9.99 PAPERBACK

ABACUS

LAIR DU TEMPS



NINA RICCI PARIS

INDULGE YOURSELF WITH A LUXURIOUS GIFT FROM

GIVENCHY

Parfums Givenchy are offering you the most and luxurious gift of a Limited Edition 125ml Amante Shower Gel or a Limited Edition 125ml Ysatis Refreshing Shower Gel. When you purchase the accompanying Eau de Toilette 50ml Natural Spray. What better way to indulge in the delights of your favourite fragrance?



Gift with the purchase of an Amante or Ysatis 50ml Eau de Toilette Natural Spray, or goods to the same value. Available from department stores, large branches of Boots, perfumers and good chemists, while stocks last.



"I still think the perfect day is one where I am hopelessly overscheduled. The more you work, the better you do. It is that simple"

Master of the Universe

Michael Bloomberg is as rich, successful, fond of glamorous women and keen on publicity as it is possible to be without being a household name.

But in the City or Wall Street he is as good a contender as any for the title of Master of the Universe. Sitting in his headquarters on Manhattan's Park Avenue, in a meeting room plastered with articles about himself, he tells how the heads of the great Wall Street investment banks teasingly greet him as "Your Eminence". "I love it," he says. "Adulation is great."

He has earned it. In 15 years, he has taken the financial markets by storm, selling them a package of data, news and computing power, and stealing business from under the noses of the giants Reuters and Dow Jones. The Bloomberg group employs 2,000 people around the world and its revenue last year was \$700 million. That success has made its creator a billionaire, allowed him to become a prominent philanthropist, and dubbed him "America's most eligible bachelor".

In his entertaining autobiography *Bloomberg*, by Bloomberg, he tells how he did it. Long on exclamation marks, his book, like that of many successful businessmen, is short on reflection; he may have made his fortune by

Ex-bond salesman Michael Bloomberg has taken the financial world by storm. Interview by Bronwen Maddox

selling analysis but applies little to himself.

But although the book lives up to Bloomberg's reputation for brashness and ebullience, with chapter headings such as "Capitalism, here I come" and "I love Mondays", it appears to have been written principally from a generous impulse: the conviction that his example will encourage others.

Bloomberg, now 55, was born in Medford, a blue-collar community in Massachusetts, "on Valentine's Day". His father, from an East European

immigrant family, was a bookkeeper for a dairy company and his mother a strong-minded housewife. Bloomberg remembers his parents' insistence on standards: "The food didn't come out in pots; only serving dishes came to the table."

After training as an engineer, Bloomberg made his way to Salomon Brothers, the Wall Street powerhouse. As one of their star bond salesman, he lived the part: "As a bachelor with a big expense account, I had a girlfriend in every city, skied in every resort, ate in every four-star restaurant, and never missed a Broadway play."

Increasingly outspoken about the management's failings, as he saw them, he was sidelined to computer systems, and then sacked when the partnership sold up, albeit with \$10 million from his share of the proceeds.

Pressed on what he felt at the time about his stalled career and being fired after 15 years service aged 39, he says: "I can't really remember. I wasn't devastated." As he puts it in the book: "I never look over my shoulder. Once finished, gone. Life continues."

The only note of self-doubt comes in a passage the week after he left Salomon's: "I ordered a sable jacket for my wife, Sue. I was worried that Sue might be ashamed of my new, less visible status and concerned I couldn't support the family. A sable jacket seemed to say 'No sweat. We can still eat.' We're still players." (She was delighted.)

Many would find \$10 million in the bank enough reassurance. But deciding that retirement would be boring, Bloomberg set about selling Wall Street a package of price information and, crucially, the software to analyse it. Some of the best passages describe Bloomberg and his colleagues installing the first terminals themselves, crawling under desks, through old McDonald's hamburger wrappers and mousetraps to drill holes for their cables.

Matthew Winkler, Bloomberg's Editor-in-Chief, who is credited with offering "invaluable help" in the book, spearheaded the move into reported news. Customers can now use a single screen to run tests on their portfolios, send e-mail, watch international television news or book a flight.

The Park Avenue building is the hub of that network. "It's the Bloomberg buzz," one employee says, gesturing at the whirl of people having meetings or rushing to dip into the coffee, fruit and chocolate on tap in the foyer. Tropical fish in floor-to-ceiling tanks are supposed to add calm, but have caught the agitation.

Bloomberg, who has gone to lengths to strip away hierarchical divisions, cares fiercely about loyalty: if an employee leaves, he will not attend the going-away party. The newsroom is designed like a Wall Street trading floor, divided only by low partitions. "Mike sits there, when he sits," one said, pointing to a desk in the corner. On cue, Bloomberg's slight 5ft 9in figure emerges from a standing huddle of colleagues, incredulous that someone has had the leisure to leave a two-minute message on his voice mail.

"I still think the perfect day is one where I'm hopelessly overscheduled," he says. Jog early in the morning and get to work by 7 am is his ideal start. After layers of phone calls, e-mails, video-conferences, stand-up meetings, he allows himself "an early dinner with customers or a group of employees, followed by a second one with friends where I

actually get a chance to stop talking and eat". At the end "I fall into bed, exhausted but satisfied with the day's accomplishments."

"The more you work, the better you do. It's that simple. I'm sure someone, some place, is smart enough to succeed while 'keeping it in perspective' and not working too hard, but I've never met him or her." He particularly respects "your guy Branson. He's a doer."

But, as his book repeatedly acknowledges, "having a business career and raising a family create inherent conflicts". The breakup of his 20-year marriage three years ago is, he has said, a deep regret. Despite his divorce, he is still close to his wife and spends every weekend with his daughters, Emma, 17, and Georgina, 14.

He has "pretty much a steady girlfriend" now, a writer close to his own age. But although he says "my friends would have expected me to have married again by now", he shrugs and grins when asked if that is imminent. Bachelor is a big word in the Bloomberg vocabulary.

There are, though, questions about the future of the business. Both Reuters and Dow Jones's struggling TeleRate are stepping up investment. He gave in to pressure last year to "go open" — allow customers to take Bloomberg's service into their own equipment. But as one London analyst remarks: "He still wants you to pay the full price for another terminal if you just pipe it to another PC."

Above all, there is the threat of a sustained slump which might prompt customers, who have Bloomberg and Reuters terminals, to pick just one. But despite constant press speculation, Bloomberg is adamant he is not about to cash in on the good times and sell the company or float it. However, he insists: "If I drop dead, the board has two years to sell. You can't run things from the grave." He wants his daughters to manage a trust to give his fortune to good causes.

Here, the Mirror Group uses Bloomberg to provide *The Independent's* business news, and Bloomberg and David Montgomery, Mirror Group's chief executive, have

Forget schools, mothers should be teaching cookery

More half-baked ideas on home economics

The Prime Minister is said to be as passionate about food — always a good sign in a person — as he is about education, so perhaps Prue Leith's lecture yesterday on the importance of teaching cookery at school will hold some sway. Her requests are to start off with at least, reasonable enough. Pupils should learn what to do with raw ingredients, how to cook: their lessons should be in food preparation rather than — as they often are now — in food technology. How could anyone argue?

But I do have some sympathy for schools here, which are anyway giving cookery instruction in home economics classes. And they must be fed up with being criticised for what are certainly in this case parental shortcomings. I know that we're all supposed to be too busy these days to cook, but if we are the ones giving our children shop-bought stuff, we can hardly blame teachers for not imbuing our young ones with a love of the domestic arts.

Presumably, the highly suspect subject of home economics exists to rectify the situation. It must have been in the late-ish Seventies that cookery was given such an elevated title: when I started cookery lessons, the subject was called domestic science, and by the time I escaped it was home economics. And in between I learnt absolutely nothing. If it weren't for the fact that my mother taught me how to cook, by example rather than instruction, I wouldn't be able to cook now. I watched her and learnt. I helped, too, with stirring and sauce-making, standing on a rickety wooden chair shoved up close to the stove. Dangerous, but invaluable, too.

I know women go out to work now and that there is no time to provide some notional domestic idyll, the air thick with the steam from a batch of buns, but that was not my childhood, either.

There are, therefore, two main flaws in the belief that cookery lessons will teach children how to cook: the first is that most cookery teachers cannot cook, or cannot cook anything one would want to eat; the second is that it's not what children are taught at school but what they see around them, and eat, at home that matters.

I concede, though, that if children never see anything more culinarily edifying than the inside of the microwave at home, then they are painfully in need of some basic instruction at school. But where I disagree with Prue Leith is the form that instruction should take. Learn how to make pasta? How to make a sauce? Even Italian schoolchildren are not taught how to make pasta at school. But then Italian schoolchildren are not taught cookery

at school at all: what does this tell us? Anyway, television, newspapers and magazines are full of recipes for pasta and suchlike. What children — and not only children — fail to grasp along the way is how long chicken needs to be roasted per pound, what to do with different cuts of lamb, and all that sort of thing. Mind you, meat cookery is probably out at most schools now, and not just on the grounds of cost. Cookery cannot be taught without concomitant instruction in "nutrition", which means demonstrating anything with meat or fat in it. Thus, the daughter of a friend of mine was given a recipe for biscuits, with a request by the cookery teacher that she adapt it to be a low-fat recipe. This is hardly guaranteed to instil anyone with a love of cooking for eating.

It makes sense to encourage everyone to have a go at themselves to see how easy, for example, it is to make a sponge cake or grill a pork chop, but I am a realist. Which leads me to argue that it is not the children who should be packed off to cookery lessons but, in most cases, their parents.



Nigella Lawson

POOR Terence Conran: he builds restaurants for us, builds shops for us, stocks them both with good food, and do we thank him for his trouble? No. We mock his enthusiasm and now, with the opening today of his mega-emporium, the Bluebird Gastronomy on the King's Road, we start implying that he has megalomaniac tendencies and has to be stopped before he takes over the whole world. If only that were the case. I fear that he hasn't taken over enough. I'm not so worried about London. It's beyond that is really in need of Conranisation. I mean the country: something has got to be done about it. It's not just that the food's bad the conversation's worse, but I do see that's outside even Sir Terence's remit but that no one has any taste.

You can't go to a restaurant in the country without being served food with great fanfare under silver-plate cloches, or find a hotel that doesn't have chintzy pretensions to be a stately home. The whole thing makes my urban soul shudder at the aesthetic affront. And I have often thought, too, that what the current generation of stressed-out young excess really needs doesn't exist: a good-taste health farm. Think white, think smooth, light and plain space, think the Delano in South Beach: think anything except the suburban-style nightmares that currently exist. I know that the Conran ethos hardly lends itself to restraint or self-denial, but surely he could oblige and give us just one non-naïf, out-of-town retreat.

A gift for you



This cool transparent toiletries bag containing 5 great summer items, including new Ceramide SPF15 Moisturiser, new Exceptional Lipstick 'Pout', new 5th Avenue Parfum, a mini black Defining Mascara and Ceramide Face and Eye Capsules.

Yours with the purchase of any Ceramide Skincare lines to the value of £30 or more.

Ask your consultant about new Ceramide Firm Lift - a lightly hydrating peach emulsion which increases skin's firmness and reduces the appearance of age spots.

Elizabeth Arden

Available in major Department Stores and Chemists.

Battling for Cheaper Car Insurance?

Is your premium over £250? You could cut your costs by calling Hastings Direct.

Bigger cars and comprehensive cover a speciality!

Call FREE on 0800 00 1066 and quote reference T1038

Hastings DIRECT

Rewarding work with children

Today, over 2 million children worldwide are successfully mastering mathematics with the popular Kumon method. Kumon's success is due largely to the care and devotion of our ever expanding team of instructors. Each instructor works part-time on a self-employed basis running a study centre in their local area. Since first opening in this country demand for new Kumon centres has increased dramatically. We now need many more instructors and are looking for enthusiastic people to train in helping children learn the Kumon Method.

We are currently looking for instructors throughout the UK. Introductory meetings are held in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol and Glasgow. Training is available in London and Manchester. For a free information pack call Stephen Ward on 0181 345 3307.

KUMON MATHS
KUMON EDUCATIONAL UK, ELSCOTT HOUSE, ANCADIA AVENUE,
KUMON LONDON N3 2JU. TEL: 0181 345 3307. FAX: 0181 345 2857.

The soul of man under new Labour

Illiberal liberals imperil Blair's project, says Melanie Phillips

It is very confusing to be a liberal today. We believe we live in a liberal society. But our definition of liberal has become corrupted. It has fallen victim to a mind-set which says the individual is paramount, personal choice and self-fulfilment trump everything else, all values are subjective and there is no such thing as objective right and wrong. These beliefs are not liberalism. They are its antithesis.

It was the so-called liberal refusal to discriminate between prosocial and antisocial behaviour which produced Mandy Allwood with her IVF octuplets, all of whom died, by a man with another family to whom she was not married. Or Diane Blood, whose inalienable right to a child was held to justify administering an electric shock to the backside of an unconscious and dying man to retrieve his sperm without his knowledge or consent. In our schools, "liberal" child-centred education has left thousands of children functionally illiterate. All the evidence indicates that family dismemberment and reorganisation is a disaster for most children, just as lone parenthood is a distressing burden for most women. How can it be liberal to promote such harm?

Yet teachers who resist damaging educational orthodoxies are often penalised by local authority advisers or even now - Ofsted inspectors. Family researchers who uncover the damage caused by family breakdown have their funding cut off by liberal research bodies. If liberalism is about freedom of expression, defending truth against oppression, tolerating dissent, above all embodying the rule of reason based on evidence, how can all these developments express liberal values?

The insistence that the only alternative to a moral free-for-all is authoritarian oppression indicates serious confusion about what liberal values actually are. That is because liberalism has been corrupted into licence and libertinism. And there are still people in key positions who have every interest in bamboozling the public - maybe even bamboozling the Prime Minister - into believing these trends are being reversed while they are actually being reinforced. Our new Government has pledged itself to repair the social fabric. Yet at the heart of this administration, corrupted liberal values are still entrenched.

The great early liberal thinkers laid down principles which today's corrupted liberals have all but buried. Real liberalism consists of a delicate equilibrium between freedom and equality, and rules and boundaries. It acknowledges the great paradox, that personal freedom can be protected only within a structure of constraints. The disintegration of those constraints and the resulting loss of that crucial equilibrium have created libertarianism on both the political Left and Right. The idea that things are intrinsically right or wrong has

given way instead to whether they are expedient.

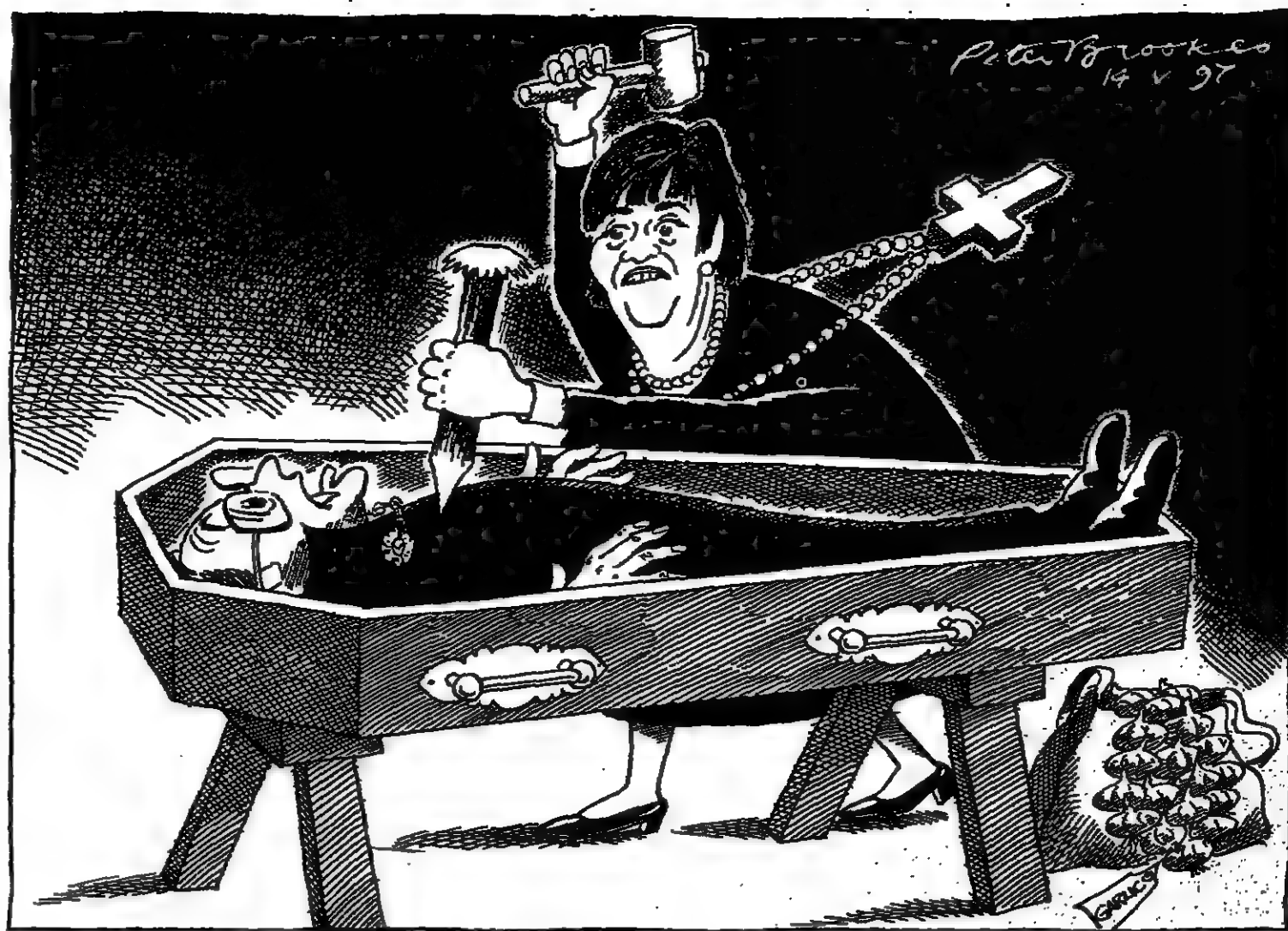
We appear to have moved into not just a post-modern but a post-moral society. But this cannot therefore be a liberal society. Liberalism was always a moral project. Yet our moral discourse now boils down to two concepts: personal autonomy (the right to make choices) and individual rights (claims made against others). Down this route, liberal values mutate into coercion and hedonism. Freedom and equality turn into absolutes, ends rather than means.

The great question now is whether the Blair Government will re-establish true liberal values - or whether it, too, is fatally compromised by these confusions. The issue is not whether old Labour still has any life in it. There is a profound divide within new Labour between hedonism - the absolute supremacy of individual choice in pursuit of happiness and fulfilment - and moralism, where the individual is constrained to some extent by bonds of duty. In the New Model Labour Government, Jack Straw and Frank Field represent the latter trend. But in the education department, despite David Blunkett's genuine commitment to raising standards, policies and even some key personalities still embody the egalitarian individualism at the heart of the educational malaise. The stated aim to reimpose equality in education; the hostility to diversity; the endorsement of the shift from teacher to learner which has abandoned so many children to ignorance and error; these signals and more indicate that new Labour is alarmingly compromised by values which have undermined the transmission of our culture.

Tony Blair has refreshingly declared himself an ideology-free zone. Yet he has also said that what is right is what works. Up to a point, pragmatism is commendable. But this is dangerously close to saying that principle is bunk. Who defines what works? And for whom? For the strong over the weak, the rich over the poor, the lone parent over the married couple, the individual over society? Liberal principles, constantly eroded, have to be shored up by a settled belief in what is right. What works isn't necessarily what's right at all.

The liberal equilibrium is the famous centre ground of politics. The Blair Government has laid noisy claim to this ground. It remains to be seen, though, whether its unresolved inner tensions between hedonists and moralists make that claim insecure. It is an argument which must now take place openly within its ranks. But if new Labour fails to rein back individualism through the restoration of true liberal constraints, then the way is open for a chastened Tory party to reclaim the centre ground that it so irresponsibly vacated.

This is an extract from a lecture to be given tonight at the Centre for Policy Studies. Melanie Phillips is a columnist for The Observer.



LEADERSHIP STAKES

Missionary diplomacy

Robin Cook's foreign policy amounts to meddling in the name of human rights

So now we know. One arm of Her Majesty's Government this week said it would promote the sale of handguns to foreigners who pledge to respect human rights. Another arm said it would ban selling handguns to Britons, human rights or no. Such are the moral ambiguities of foreign policy.

But we must not take Robin Cook's new mission statement too seriously. We are still in the post-election novelty phase. Mission statements are 1980s consultant-speak. Mr Cook had hardly opened his mouth than he said "global economy", "information revolution" and "fibre-optic cable" all in a rush, like a music hall comedian. The nice thing about new Labour is that it is fast becoming old-fashioned, like New Day.

So what is Britain's foreign policy, unveiled with videos on Monday? Macmillan once wailed that a foreign secretary cannot speak without falling foul of either a cliché or an indiscretion. Mr Cook erred on the side of the former. His spinners claimed that this was his department's first mission statement - two months after Malcolm Rifkind issued something called just that. Most of the new statement is the same as the old. A "stable and peaceful international order" may have become a "strong world community". But the platitudes are the same about human rights, the Commonwealth, crime and drugs, British interests.

Students in advanced mission-statement studies know that the devil is in what is not said. Mr Cook's most obvious cut is the dropping of "to invigorate the transatlantic relationship". He tried to brush this aside as mere sub-editing. That will not do. Mission statements may be banal but they are written in blood. The Atlantic bond is incompatible with the new Europeanism. The special relationship - the noblest diplomatic affair of the century - has gone, not with a bang but with a pencil.

More intriguing is the spin. The pre-election team left no stone unturned. Leave Britain to one side, what would new Labour mean to the Mongolian shepherd, the Bangkok taxi-driver? They too have their agenda. So the camera picks out an Indian tea-picker, an Eskimo school-child, a Japanese microchip salesman, all gazing upwards in beatific awe as the Hale-Blair comet whooshes across the sky. The message for them is not diversity with

continuity, not even responsibility with change. It is morality. Out goes pragmatic, opportunistic British diplomacy. New Labour is ethics. Mr Cook declares that "national interest cannot be defined only by narrow realpolitik". From the people who brought you the Iron Lady now comes... Holy Tony.

Human rights is to be at the heart of British foreign policy, Britain says Mr Cook, will go out into the world to support "the demands of other peoples for the democratic rights on which we insist for ourselves". Britain will stamp on autocracy and child labour, impose economic sanctions, refuse arms to aggressive states and publish a league table of repressive governments. This foreign policy has the most interventionist slant of any I can recall. "We are an instant witness in our sitting rooms through the medium of television to human tragedy in distant lands," says Mr Cook. We are therefore "obliged to accept moral responsibility for our response..."

This is a firm rejection of the old school of diplomacy, that morality has at best a nodding acquaintance with foreign policy. Mr Cook disagrees with the view of one of his predecessors, Douglas Hurd, that policy must be insulated from "CNN diplomacy", from the instinct to "do something" whenever another of the world's myriad evils has caught the camera's roving eye. He is a Kantian, swayed by the categorical imperative. He wishes to conscript his moral response to his will "that it should become a universal law". A revolution at television pictures of cruelty must be harnessed to its diplomatic, economic or even military crusade.

Of course I accept "moral responsibility for my response" to what I see on television. But then what? There is a difference between wishing the world a better place, willing voluntary action to alleviate human suffering (such as through charities) and expecting my Government in effect to

go to war. Mr Cook draws no distinction. Governments set on the latter course become fidgety, inconsistent and counter-productive. The moral imperative gets the better of the utilitarian goal. Kant makes better television than Bentham. When foreign ministers turn to philosophy, decent citizens should run for cover.

Mr Cook's exclusions now become more stark. We hear nothing of peaceful co-existence, of territorial integrity, of national self-determination, let alone of the United Nations charter on non-interference in the affairs of sovereign states. America has declared that national sovereignty is now subordinate to CNN diplomacy, to America's moral imperialism. America has a league table of drug nations. Mr Cook promises one on human rights.

Yesterday morning on the radio was a vivid illustration of the double standard into which this morality leads. A firm was attacked for importing footballs made by child labour in India. A reporter in India found a child stitcher and asked if she would not rather be playing with her friends. She said yes. But she added that if she did not stitch (and someone sell and someone buy her football), her sick mother would starve.

Mr Cook claimed yesterday that he would "clamp down on child labour", and would be applauded by the media for doing so. Such is the power of the moral response. But India is not Britain. It is poor. The best thing Britain can do for India is to buy any or all of its exports. The worst thing is to close its factories, sack its children, starve its villages and ruin its competitiveness - all to satisfy that moral response.

Labour has always advocated sanctions as a weapon of international relations, despite all evidence of its ineffectiveness. From Castro and Gaddafi to the ayatollahs and Saddam Hussein, nothing cements a

dictator in place as does economic warfare. The casual threatening of sanctions is a war on the distant poor, a sign of the "dumbing" of foreign affairs of CNN diplomacy.

The inspiration for Mr Cook's philosophy is not so much Kant as what Nietzsche dismissed as "Ferienliebe", a greater concern for distant humans than for those close to home. There is a glory to foreign wars that is absent from the Department of Social Security. Over the past decade, American presidents have turned with relief from their appalling cities to crusade in Beirut, Grenada, Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia. So Britain is now promised adventures in any disaster area that captures Mr Cook's video recorder.

Terrible will be the messes and terrible the inconsistencies. The mission to "strengthen the Commonwealth" will fall before a "moral imperative" to restore Kenya's democracy, establish human rights in Nigeria or rewrite India's labour laws. British trade will fall before human rights in Tibet. As for drug trafficking, what does Mr Cook really mean to do about the world's second biggest export after oil? He can outlaw hypocrisy and save \$2 billion from the Foreign Office budget. He can break the glass, but he will not hold up the weather.

To be fair to Mr Cook, finding a new role in the world is not done in a week. America is now the global police chief and a wayward one at that. Europe will be Mr Cook's stage, showered with brickbats, and the rest will be sideshows. But the sideshows will be plagued with interventions. No country is at present safe from the restlessness of post-Cold War governments, their armies, their agencies and their charity bosses. At this moment, hordes of Rwandans are wandering central Africa, enticed from their homes in part by promises of Western aid and security, tossed from gangster to charity and back to gangster, dying all the time. For the West the Goma camp was a great moral response, but for its inhabitants it was a catastrophe.

Modern interventionism is short-term and paper-thin. It is upheld by none of the commitment of empire or of old Cold War alliances. Such imperialism risks being mere television diplomacy. The challenge for Mr Cook is to prove that his new moral outreach can ever deliver a practical goal. Otherwise it is just showing off and feeling good.

Simon Jenkins

Alan Coren



How much is that doggy in your pocket?

As a lone columnist, I have, like Blanche Dubois, always depended on the kindness of strangers. I perch in this Crickwood-eyrie, banging on to a world I cannot see, whose population I do not know, hoping against hope that they do not object to being banged on to, and thus pitifully grateful for the slightest indication that that hope is not, in both senses, vain. And should the indication ever be more than the slightest, a hot flush suffuses my raddled cheek, my little heart goes pika-pat, and upon each eyelid a bright tear trembles. So you see what you have done, Mrs Alice Maynard, with your Tamagotchi.

Or, rather, my Tamagotchi, which is what it is now that Mrs Maynard has so very generously sent it to me. She did this because, a fortnight ago, I wrote that I had always wanted a dog but none of the headaches that went with it, and suggested that BT, which had just released its dawn chorus service for bird-lovers, now set up a dogline so that people like me could have a dog to talk to. But Mrs Maynard had already gone much further than that: she had gone, a month before, as far as Tokyo, and when she returned she brought with her a big bag of Tamagotchis for friends and relatives; and one, this extraordinarily compassionate lady decided, after reading my column, for me.

It is a dog I can carry in my pocket. It is the size of a quail's egg. Indeed, it could be a quail I could carry in my pocket. If I had always wanted a quail but none of the headaches that went with it, or a cat, or a gerbil, it could be. For the Tamagotchi is a cybernetic pet, a tiny electronic sphere which, the owner has to nurture if it is to thrive and love him back; it wails if it is virtually hungry, or virtually unhappy, stopping only when the owner presses the little buttons which feed or comfort it; it grows virtually fat if it is overfed, it gets virtually messy if its plops to "evacuate" its virtual bowels, go unheeded, and if not kept a close, caring eye on, it can have up to eight different virtual accidents, any of which could kill it.

Oh, Mrs Maynard, dear kind Mrs Maynard, what have you done? My dog is sitting on my desk as I write; it has been fed, it has had a pee, and it now seems to be contentedly sleeping, but you can never be sure, any moment now it could suddenly wake up and run under a bus, it could jump out of the window, it could get eaten by a python, my life will never be the same. If it were a real dog, I could put it in the garden and get on with my work, but if you put a Tamagotchi in the garden and went back into the house, it could squeal, vomit and tread on a landmine and you would never know.

And there are more distressing ramifications yet, are there not, Mrs Maynard? I never knew much about the Japanese, I knew they had a taste for raw fish, short poems, and labour-intensive roadbuilding, and that was about it, but now you tell me that they have ten million Tamagotchis, and love them, and depend upon them for their happiness.

How long, then, before Nippon comes up with cybernetic children, so much less risk and hassle, so much more certainty of filial devotion and reward, and how long before such electronic virtuality spreads, as so many Japanese initiatives do, westwards?

Worse - though you were not to know it - your generous gift arrived on a very unsettling day. Indeed, when two other quantum long jumps took off from the board to land who knows where: not only did BSkyB and BT go into partnership to initiate interactive television shopping so that none of us need ever leave his domestic premises again, but the Deep Blue computer trounced Garry Kasparov, the smartest human being in the world.

So even as I send thanks to you, Mrs Maynard, I have to say that it is thanks to you that I have seen the future, and God help us, it is virtually here. Any day now, man will be able to sit in his solitary cubicle with his dogs in one pocket and his kids in the other, feeding, clothing and entertaining himself from the screen before him, and playing everything from cribbage to rugby league against the best the cybernetic world has to offer.

What shall we call this ideal? Would virtual hara-kiri do?

Log jam

DISTRACTED perhaps by the launch of his new album, Sir Paul McCartney, a noted nature lover, has found himself under investigation by the Forestry Commission. The problem arose after McCartney made some ill-guarded remarks in an interview for the latest issue of the pop music magazine Q, in which he painted himself as a real Grizzly Adams.

When asked how he relaxed, McCartney said he liked to get out and about on his estate near Peasmarsh in East Sussex. "My hobby," he says, "and I did it yesterday actually, is getting out in the woods and making trails for riders, so I'm chainsaw man - no tree is safe. I apologise to them, though, and I point out to them, there's an awful lot of you, it's virtually a thicket!"

Instantly, feelers twitched at the Forestry Commission and investigators were dispatched. Felling timber without a licence carries a fine of up to £4,000 or twice the value of the trees, whichever is highest. Small beer to someone such as McCartney, but embarrassing for one so publicly tied to environmental causes.

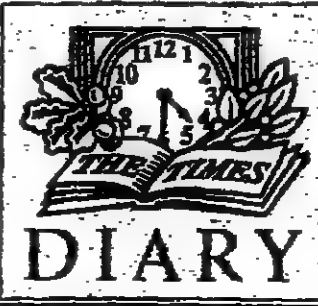
After a few days of nosing

around, however, the Commission went home. "We had a good look and nothing illegal seemed to be going on," they said. They will be keeping an eye on him in future.

● The chaos surrounding Michael Howard's run for the Tory leadership suddenly makes sense when one considers his personal minder.



"There is something of the night about Howard. He eats after eight chocolates"



one Douglas Carswell, a young man in his mid twenties for whom the years since 1960 might not have happened. Low of brow, grey of suit and wearing the sort of heavy plastic spectacles beloved of Denis Norden, his most recent job was minding the Tories' general election chicken.

High note

ANOTHER notch in the Dimbleby family belt, this time courtesy of Nicholas Dimbleby, younger brother of David and Jonathan. He has won a contest to design a statue of the jazz musician Duke Ellington which will stand in London's Soho Square.

He beat four other sculptors to the £30,000 contract, although the best-known among them, Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, entered late

then surprisingly withdrew. Dimbleby's kin must rarely go cold these days. I could not congratulate him yesterday as he was returning from the unveiling in Ayrton, Yorkshire, of his statue of Captain Cook.

Nul points

INTERVIEWED in the latest New College Oxford newsletter, the author John Fowles, class of 1947, recalls the formidable old bluesocking, busybody and Modern Languages lecturer Enid Starkie. "One day I smuggled a



Dimbleby: good curves

French friend in to one of her lectures, and she began quoting Rimbaud or Verlaine. He was at the Sorbonne himself. He listened for a while and then he said, "What language is she speaking?"

● Dance music and Shakespeare have been fused on a new disco version of Hamlet's "To be or not to be" speech. On the record, which will reach clubs very soon, the actor Richard E. Grant recites the soliloquy over a drum, and bass track by the techno band Orpheus. "They assure me it's going to be in the top five," says Grant.

Free spirit

WITH her father now in Parliament, Melissa Bell, daughter of Martin Bell, now Independent MP for Tutton, has decided to become the journalist in the family. Before returning to Britain to run and otherwise glamourise her father's successful election campaign, she worked in the marketing department of Reuters in Brussels.

Now back in Brussels, where her fluent French comes in handy, she has moved into journalism with a job at Bridge News, a financial wire service, part of the Knight-Ridder group. "My father wouldn't have me continuing to work for him," says Miss Bell.



Melissa Bell: ringing changes

● These are desperate times for Kasparov Chess Computers. Just hours after their sportsman's defeat by Deep Blue, the company was issuing frantic press releases promoting its product, the "bestselling range of intelligent games in the world."

"The chess computers, we read, provide a formidable, fearless opponent... a clever combination of computer cool and human intelligence". Thus proving once again the truth of the old adage: if you can't beat 'em...

P.H.S



THE LADY SPEAKS

The new Bank advisers must bring a broad range of views

Gordon Brown's decision to make the Bank of England independent was widely welcomed. Yesterday's publication of the Bank's quarterly Inflation Report should remind enthusiasts that central bank independence, however desirable, is not a free lunch. The Bank intends to raise interest rates and to raise them quickly. It will not be deterred by what it sees as the short-term aberration of the overvalued pound which is punishing manufacturers and exporters. Neither will the Bank be put off by whatever Mr Brown may or may not do in his Budget next month. Subject to the tradition of verbal obscenity which is second nature to central bankers, the Inflation Report yesterday could not have been more explicit. "Inflation is more likely than not to be above the target two years or so ahead unless action is taken to slow the pace of expansion. There is likely to be a need for some further moderate tightening of policy in the months ahead."

How far the Bank decides to move may depend to some extent on what Mr Brown does in the Budget and what happens on the foreign exchanges. But the connection will be tenuous, at best. The Bank seems intent on disappointing the CBI and other business lobbyists which have been calling for higher taxes as a substitute for higher interest rates and a stronger pound. No such choice is now on offer. Judging by the Inflation Report interest rates will rise almost regardless of what Mr Brown does in the Budget.

This is a perfectly defensible position from the point of view of the newly independent Bank. The Bank can be more confident of meeting its new statutory duty to contain inflation if it sticks doggedly to a long-term policy of monetary rigour, refusing to be deflected by erratic currency movements or changes in tax policy whose impact on inflation may be hard to predict. To mitigate a policy of higher interest rates in the hope that inflation might be contained by a tough Budget or a strong pound would inevitably mean taking a risk with inflation, at least in the short term. Taking risks with inflation is what the Bank has been instructed not to do.

Eliminating risk, however, always carries costs. An independent Bank will be less sensitive than an elected Government to the competitive pressures on British industry. And the independent conduct of monetary policy will sharply constrain the Chancellor's ability to stabilise economic activity by coordinating moves in taxes, public spending and interest rates. Whether the greater certainty of achieving low inflation justifies this loss of competitiveness and flexibility is a political decision, which Mr Brown has now taken. But even within the framework of independence, there are options available to ensure that the Bank's decisions remain open to political scrutiny and sensitive to public opinion.

The Government must ensure that appointees to the Bank's new Monetary Policy Committee represent a range of economic and political backgrounds. The committee must include economists from the Keynesian school who believe in using interest rates and fiscal policy for active demand management, as well as traditional financial economists with City backgrounds. They should include people drawn from manufacturing industry, not just from academia or financial markets.

Committee members, up to the Governor and his deputies, should also represent a variety of political persuasions. Central bankers in Germany, America and France have publicly acknowledged political affiliations. Even though they must keep partisan politics out of professional judgments, experience of politics makes them more sensitive to public opinion and helps to enrich their debate. The US Federal Reserve Board is a highly political institution, whose chairman and governors maintain close contacts with the White House and Congress, as well as with business and financial lobbies. They take pride in their sensitivity to the political impact of their decisions. Central bank independence may be designed to take the politics out of interest rates. But nobody should imagine that interest rates can ever be taken out of politics.

CHUNNEL FUDGE

Eurotunnel must seize this opportunity for a fresh start

The report by the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority on last November's freight shuttle fire is a devastating indictment of sloppy practices by Eurotunnel. It describes a "fundamental weakness" in the safety system, lists numerous procedures that were not properly implemented and blames Eurotunnel for not training staff properly, leading to errors and delays in dealing with the blaze. The report is a very different document from the internal inquiry carried out by Eurotunnel immediately after the fire. This concluded that, on the whole, all the safety procedures had functioned adequately and had averted loss of life. Yesterday's report agreed only on the almost fortuitous escape of the drivers trapped in the tunnel; in all other respects it should puncture the complacency of the Eurotunnel inquiry.

The report makes 36 recommendations. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister with overall responsibility for transport, swiftly associated the Government with both the criticisms and the proposals, and said he expected the new safety measures to be implemented forthwith. He insisted, correctly, that safety must be paramount.

It is, therefore, all the more surprising that the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority has itself drawn up a report so deficient in two crucial areas. No attempt was made to identify the cause of the fire, nor, on the question of the open-sided wagons — at the centre of arguments over the spread of the blaze — did it reach any conclusion. As a report, therefore, it is of little use in determining the pattern of future freight shuttles through the tunnel.

A French judicial inquiry is to publish its report on the cause of the fire within a week.

Since flames were seen coming from the train as it entered the tunnel, there is suspicion of arson. This, clearly, would have a bearing on the running and management of the tunnel. Why, therefore, did the safety authority not co-ordinate its report with the French inquiry? After any air or rail crash, determining the cause of the accident is an essential first step.

Furthermore, the inquiry's failure to decide, after lengthy evidence, whether the open-sided wagons were a contributory factor is irresponsible. The Kent Fire Brigade has long condemned these transporters as unsafe; the design authorities, on the other hand, insisted that the risk of lorries catching fire was so much smaller than a fire breaking out in a car that the lattice-sided carriers were safe. Who is right? The suspicion is that commercial considerations have intervened: with the advent of 44-tonne lorries, steel-doored wagons would put too great a weight on the bogies and increase the risk of derailment. On this point, the report should have been unambiguous.

Eurotunnel has committed itself to new safety measures. Within a month both tunnels will be open to all traffic. The priority now for Government and operators is to maximise the tunnel's benefits. This means opening new routes for freight up the spine of Britain, encouraging the new, privatised rail freight operations to expand their international routes and access and dealing, at European Union level, with the remaining obstacles that make national freight systems incompatible. Mr Prescott has the political weight to give transport a real boost; the tunnel operators should now seize their new opportunity.

THE SELECT FEW

New ways to improve scrutiny of government

As Labour MPs scramble to find a seat today for the first debate of the new Parliament, many will be wondering what on earth they will do with their time. Just 91 have been chosen for government posts; that leaves a further 326 pairs of potentially idle hands.

One answer would be to have more than one career path in national politics. It need not be the pinnacle of an MP's career to become the Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Doorknobs, let alone the unpaid parliamentary private secretary to the above. The Commons itself ought to provide rewarding routes to success.

The best select committees already command respect: their reports are debated and quoted, their chairmen appear on the Today programme. But too often, membership of a committee is seen as a consolation prize for ex-ministers put out to grass. If the work is taken seriously, it is detailed and time-consuming; yet no reward is offered. The chairman of select committees ought to be paid a salary on top of their MPs wage.

This was recommended last year by the Senior Salaries Review Body. It would give higher status to a job whose importance often goes unrecognised. In the dying years of the last administration, no fewer than four select committee chairmen gave up their post to the lure of junior or middle-ranking ministerial positions. If these men had been

paid commensurately to stay in the Commons, would they have been so tempted to cross to Whitehall?

A good stint on a select committee should also be recommended to the bright young MPs in Labour's new intake. As Frank Field (who chaired the social security select committee) has proved, such work is invaluable in building up expertise. The new ranks of MPs include several, such as Patricia Hewitt for Labour and Steve Webb for the Liberal Democrats, who are already knowledgeable about welfare reform. Yvette Cooper and Charles Clarke have much to offer the Treasury and Public Services Committees. The new MPs' presence would do more than fill in time before they qualify for frontbench status, and should be seen by Mr Blair not as holding up their ministerial careers but as a substitute for spending a year or two as a PPS.

If select committees are packed with talented members, more attention will be paid to their reports and their scrutiny of the executive will be more rigorous. With Labour sitting on a majority of 179, the quality of this examination will be critical. So will the opportunity for a more diverse range of views to be aired. The committee system could bring some fresh ideas into the policy formation of a new Government. It deserves to be made more attractive.

Pressure from Tories to reform leadership election rules

From Mr Edward Leigh, MP for Gainsborough (Conservative)

Sir, I write as a Conservative MP so far uncommitted in the leadership election.

How can a party rebuild itself as the voice of the United Kingdom when the franchise of the leader is denied to three quarters of the constituencies of the United Kingdom?

Is there a candidate for the 1922 Committee and leadership elections prepared to commit himself to testing the result for leader and deputy leader in a full, one-man one-vote election next year conducted by secret postal ballot? Electoral colleges are burdensome and undemocratic and, as the Labour Party found, do not work or inspire.

A leadership election involving every party member could provide the springboard for a nationwide recruitment drive, maintain interest in the Conservatives throughout a lengthy Labour honeymoon period and test the mettle of the new leader against all comers and all talents.

Is there a candidate prepared to modernise our party? Can we create a democratic party conference electing the party chairman, debating real issues among representatives elected by all party members and themselves deciding all the motions to be debated by ballot? Have we the courage to countenance a Shadow Cabinet elected every year by the parliamentary party, attending the parliamentary caucus every week?

The 1922 Committee should become the forum for a united and seamless party, discussing new policy initiatives and effective opposition together, before we present a united front to the outside world. Never again must we have this "them and us" divide between the front bench and the backbenchers, either in opposition or government.

We need to countenance a massive reform of the whole welfare state. Conservatives succeed where they give ordinary people opportunities, as with council house sales. Are we prepared to give people real property rights over contributions they have made towards health and social security? Can we not give all schools complete freedom and parents the funding to send their child where they like?

Have we the honesty to accept that our European partners intend to create a united Europe and we must give the people the choice in a full referendum between that and membership of a free-trade area? Are we just going to pay lip-service to self-help, Christian and family values, or do something about it?

These issues need to be addressed now in our elections for leader and the

1922 Committee. Is somebody prepared to come forward and do so?

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD LEIGH,
House of Commons,
May 12.

From the Director of the Conservative Political Centre

Sir, Nowhere will your leading article today, "Trust the people", be applauded more vigorously than in the Conservative Political Centre.

Much of the CPC's most important work is done in several hundred discussion groups in constituencies in all four parts of the United Kingdom. Their chief purpose is to contribute to a "two-way movement of ideas", as Rab Butler, who established the CPC after the Second World War, put it.

I am now coming to the end of a nine-year stint as director of the CPC. I have visited a large number of its discussion groups. Everywhere I have been told that the ideas contributed from below fail to secure sufficient movement in return from above.

In opposition the Conservative Party has frequently begun the task of preparing a new programme by setting up a number of policy groups to work in detail on the main areas of policy. Sir Edward Heath organised a particularly ambitious venture of this kind in 1964, which was co-ordinated by the Conservative Research Department (Rab Butler's other chief gift to the party). New policy groups should be swiftly established, and this time the CPC should be fully involved in their work.

Incidentally, the party remains the Conservative and Unionist Party. Its defence of the Union must remain a central element of its One Nation policies for the future, even though it will need to find new ways of incorporating support for devolution within them.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR B. COOKE, Director,
Conservative Political Centre,
32 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1,
May 10.

From Mr Fred Silvester

Sir, As a former member of the executive of the Conservative 1922 Committee, I am aware of the arguments for leaving the main influence in the choice of leader of the Conservative Party with MPs who observe the candidates most closely.

I do hope, however, that the executive soon to be elected will consider the very widespread view (letters, May 9) that party workers should now have a formal role in making the choice. The current process of consultation is inadequate. Not only is the parliamentary party no longer representative of

the spread of the party at large, but nearly a quarter of MPs are new and cannot claim that special knowledge of the candidates on which the present system depends. The National Union has a strong claim to be heard.

There is no hurry to choose a leader. The party's troubles are not susceptible to the quick fix. If introducing a new system delayed the election beyond the present expectation of early June, no harm will be done. MPs should remember that they are going to need the enthusiasm of the constituency workers now more than ever.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. SILVESTER
(Conservative MP, 1964-70, 1974-87),
27 King Edward Walk, SE1,
May 9.

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North (Labour)

Sir, Legislation was introduced by the Tories in the early 1980s whereby elections for national positions in trade unions had to be based on the wider membership and no longer by those attending branch meetings.

Yet it is now considered appropriate for 164 MPs alone to decide who should be the Leader of the Opposition. Why not the same right for members of the Conservative Party as for trade unionists?

Yours etc,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons,
May 12.

From Mrs Elizabeth Sutherland

Sir, So the Conservative Associations want a say in the selection of the next Tory leader. Having been responsible for the selection of hundreds of Tory candidates overwhelmingly rejected by the public at large their judgment must be questioned.

Now their favoured choice appears to be William Hague — another John Major and another pragmatist. His achievements appear few and as a "professional" politician from a very early age his real knowledge of the world must be limited. Moreover William Hague's Eurosceptic credentials are extremely suspect to many of us who have withdrawn our support from the party.

Of the candidates on offer only the leadership of John Redwood, a man of enormous intellect and principle, untarnished by the last few years of rather squalid Tory Government, would see our family return to the Conservative fold.

Yours sincerely,
ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND,
23 Sparrowhawk Ride,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
May 10.

Queen's Speech and human rights

From the Director of Liberty

Sir, One important proposal expected in tomorrow's Queen's Speech is the Government's intention to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law. Liberty has campaigned for such legislation over twenty years.

Once incorporation is complete our fundamental civil and political rights will no longer exist merely in the silence of the law but will have a key place in a new constitution. For the first time we will have positive rights to privacy and fair trial, freedoms of expression, religion and assembly. The convention itself is not of course a panacea and, being nearly forty years old, needs to be supplemented by new rights in a domestic Bill of Rights.

In the shorter term, legislation to incorporate the convention needs to create real rights with real remedies, so that violations can be met by civil actions. It must deal with violations of

human rights at least as effectively as breaches of property rights. The same remedies, such as injunctions and damages, should be available.

The Bill also needs to impose duties on Parliament, ministers and the Civil Service to protect these rights. In particular they need to ensure that, in future, all legislation complies with the convention. Finally, the real test of the commitment of the new Parliament will be whether it is prepared to allow the courts to give a higher status to the convention than other legislation. The Canadians have managed to develop devices that preserve the sovereignty of their Parliament whilst also giving human rights the importance they deserve within the constitution. I hope the new Parliament can be as creative.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADHAM,
Director, Liberty,
21 Tabard Street, SE1,
May 13.

'New' names

From Mr David Rees

Sir, The new edition of *The Oxford Concise Dictionary of First Names* may have chosen to record "classic" surnames such as Lambert as first names for the first time (report, May 9; letter, May 10). However, the book's previous editors have been ignoring their history if that name has been omitted until now.

The pretender Lambert Simnel won notoriety by posing as Richard Duke of York during Henry VII's reign. It would be interesting to know whether another "classic" name, Perkin, makes it into the book as well.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID REES,
38 New Caledonian Wharf,
6 Odessa Street, SE16,
May 12.

Deep Blue

From Mr Alan Fraser

Sir, Far from representing a triumph for the computer and artificial intelligence, the recent contest between Deep Blue and Garry Kasparov (report, May 12) shows the poverty of intellectual capacity of a machine which needs to process 200 million possible chess moves a second in order to win a match against a man who can think about only three or four.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN FRASER,
33 Elm Bank Gardens, SW13,
May 12.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Call to open ranks of British Legion

From Mr N. B. C. Eveleigh

Sir, As a proud member of the Royal British Legion, which has just celebrated its 75th anniversary, I believe it is time that, in addition to its traditional and vital service to retired service personnel, the RBL should also support those engaged in some of the internal conflicts within our society — conflicts which I regard as just as threatening as those on the battlefield.

Until recently the Armed Services were found in every corner of the country, but now no longer. Here in Kent, for instance, the naval barracks and dockyard in Chatham have closed, one of the county regiments has left Maidstone, and the Royal Marines have left Deal. The Royal Air Force, already departed from Biggin Hill and West Malling, is only a shadow at Manston.

The pattern of decline within the Royal British Legion is reflected in its recent annual report, with a further loss of membership and the closing of another 37 branches. In the light of such changes, could not the RBL now welcome into its ranks those who serve in the community front line — the unpaid and often unsung volunteers in the Scouts and Guides and in the cadet forces, the police and the fire service?

Unless the RBL recognises the new order of battle in our society now, when its fine reputation and resources could make it a real force for good, I believe that by the time it reaches its centenary in 2021 it will be effectively extinct.

Yours faithfully,
NICK EVELEIGH,
Hodges Farmhouse,
Frittenden, Cranbrook, Kent,
May 12.

Quality of TV

From Dr Geoffrey Rivett

Sir, My wife and I are numbered amongst those to whom David Lowe refers (letter, May 9) as channel hopping in search of something worth watching.

We regularly spend time in the US, and while friends tell us that the general quality of the programming there is dire, we would gladly exchange any British terrestrial or satellite channel for the Public Broadcasting Service, available throughout the US. A service largely reliant on public donations, we wish it was available in the UK. Cable suppliers please note.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY RIVETT,
173 Shakespeare Tower,
Barbican, EC2,
May 12.

Northcote recalled

From the Earl of Idlesleigh

Sir, You underestimate my great-grandfather, Sir Stafford Northcote, when you refer to him as "prolific" (Diary, May 6). He had fathered ten, not eight, children when as Chancellor of the Exchequer he lived in No 10 Downing Street, having exchanged houses with his Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, in 1874.

His association with No 10 does not end there. One of his granddaughters (not daughter), Dame Flora MacLeod, was actually born in the house on February 3, 1878, and he himself died there on January 6, 1887, while waiting to see the Prime Minister of the day, Lord Salisbury. A unique tribute, I think?

Yours faithfully,
IDDESLEIGH,
Shilldons House,
Upton-Pyne-Hill, nr Exeter, Devon.

Afore ye go

From Mr Allan Hird

Sir, I have just received from Thomas Cook tickets for my wife and me to fly to Edinburgh in a few weeks' time. They contain an instruction to "ensure that your passport is current and valid including any visas and vaccinations where required".

In the current fast-moving political scene since Labour took office, does the travel group perhaps know something that the rest of us don't?

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN HIRD,
26 Elton Avenue,
Greenford, Middlesex,
May 8.

All at sea

From Dr G. L. Bolt

Sir, I shared Mr David Wray's surprise at your navigational confusion concerning Whitby and Scarborough (letter, May 10).

Nevertheless his surmise that Captain Cook would be revelling in his grave is unlikely. Whitby's most famous son was murdered, dismembered and partially burnt by the inhabitants of what is now Hawaii. Only a few fragments of his body were returned to HMS Resolution and they were buried at sea.

Both sides were extremely saddened as previously relationships had been warm and friendly.

Yours faithfully,
G. L. BOLT,
11 Nelson Street,
King's Lynn, Norfolk,
May 12.

SIR JOHN ECCLES

The first chapter of his life was spent in a comfortable middle-class home, where his parents and he were educated at Hurstpierpoint College, Sussex. He took his BA at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he played centre-threequarter for the college rugby team.

His entry into journalism in 1959 was by way of a Fleet Street news agency. The variety of work and the need for speed and accuracy made this an excellent training ground. After a spell on the old *Daily Herald* he moved to the *Daily Mail's* team in the parliamentary press gallery. The task of the gallery man is to distil the formal part of the political process. Apart from requiring a good shorthand note, it inculcates an ability to select and condense, and develops a nose for the main points of any news story.

In 1965 Parkhouse became a special writer on politics for the *Sunday Express*, contributing profiles of leading politicians and covering by eloquence with originality and wit. By the time of his appointment to the *Sunday Express's* Fleet Street paper, indeed, his standing in the lobby was unusually high for a non-metropolitan correspondent.

To the unperceptive his daily duties could have seemed merely a round of pleasure. It is true that he loved his work and the political world. Yet few journalists were more industrious and committed. Parkhouse rarely stopped working.

He lunched almost every day at the Garrick, often with a Cabinet Minister. After Question Time and statements, he would attend the briefings at which Ministers explain and expand on their formal statements. Then he would canvass widely on the events of the day before. He did not neglect the Lords, where he struck up a friendship with the Conservative whips and often got wind of things that had not yet penetrated to the Commons lobby.

After assessing the results of his "lobby trawl" he would phone the paper. His call, usually about 7.30pm, was eagerly awaited by the "back bench" of senior editorial executives. Often it would require the radical revision of plans for the front page.

As deadlines neared his early training now came to his aid; he might scribble out the first paragraph of his report but the rest would be dictated extempore. The result was what is called in the trade "clean copy", requiring little or no revision by the sub-editors.

Every Monday he contributed to *The Herald's* political commentary, full of information and insight. In which he distilled the moods and humours of the world in which he moved so intimately.

In the 1980s he stood out against attempts by certain newspapers to end the lobby

thought, a system of "Chinese boxes" would supersede background briefing would not cease but would simply take place elsewhere.

The results of the campaign to end the lobby were as he predicted: those journalists who followed their editors' orders and shunned them every day to interview those who had been present at them. Realism, and the lack of solidarity, brought the campaign eventually to an end.

He was devoted to *The Herald*, where he in turn inspired enormous respect and affection. He had a gift for friendship and stylish merriment and gave the paper an exceptionally high profile at the heart of the political system.

He is survived by his first wife Pauline and the two sons of that marriage, which was dissolved, and by his second wife, the political journalist Julia Langdon, and their daughter and son.

Commercial radio is booming but it's no match for the Beeb

Why Auntie keeps scooping the awards

On Monday night the British radio world took a tip from the television industry and gave itself a hot dinner. Black tie. Grosvenor House. Michael Aspel, all that. Yet the Sony Radio Awards produced the familiar embarrassment that dogged the annual lunch at which it used to give prizes to itself. Two-thirds of the awards went to the BBC.

Surely some lesson here? The BBC still provides the lion's share of the kind of radio that wins prizes. Call it simply "produced speech". Not mere talk, nor chatter, nor rap, nor phone-in. Not only the formal programmes — dramas, comedies, documentary series — that are expected from the Reithian past. But the kind of radio that comes from writing words down on paper.

Enjoyment of this form of radio is not confined to the good worthies of the Radio 4 audience who write to Chris Dunkley on Feedback when an announcer says "less" for "fewer". It is found on all the other BBC radio networks: yes, even on Radio 1; certainly Radio 2; even, sometimes spectacularly, on BBC local radio.

Of course, commercial radio offers innovation and excellence, too. Classic FM's prize as the Station of the Year owes as much to its talk format as to its music. Over the years the Sony organisers have bent over backwards to dream up new categories to give commercial radio something to win: Themed Music Programme, Phone In/Topical Debate and On Air Branding of Station Image. But the BBC, more often than not, scoops these, too.

There is no need to worry about the health of commercial radio. It is booming. Why else would Capital Radio last week have paid too much to acquire the Virgin Radio Group, including a national network and a London FM station if it were not a rosy future? Even if it has been slow clawing at the BBC's huge share of the national audience, built up over decades of monopoly, commercial radio has advertising all its own, with annual revenues now £318 million.

But there's no real money in produced speech radio. In the United States anything resembling "talk" is left largely to the National Public Radio network. Otherwise, shock-jocks and sex therapists give a bigger bang for a buck. In Britain years of commercial radio regulation have been unable to yield anything much more substantial than *Gardener's Forum* on Classic FM. Why doesn't Gerald Kaufman,

MP, realise this? Last week he jumped on mild comments made by Michael Jackson, the new head of Channel 4, to call for privatisation of the Beeb. Mr Kaufman's drudge in the *Daily Mail* does not mention the word "radio" once. Yet privatisation of the BBC and you lose the last, not only *Kaleidoscope* and the Proms, but the Radio 2 Helpline and Radio 1's Sunday night documentary, Radio 5 Live and all the local options.

Privatising even Radios 1 and 2 would carry a risk. (The Commercial Radio Companies Association has raised the question once again.) First, commercial stations might lose advertising to the new competition. But the stations themselves might lose appeal. I suspect that the pulling power of these two crowd-pleasing BBC networks depends on the absence of commercials. They provide presenter-plus-music with no noxious filler in between. I have yet to hear a radio commercial that doesn't make me want to switch stations.

Of course, if Britain were starting fresh today, it wouldn't give half the available radio spectrum to a non-commercial broadcaster. But the BBC is there, astride five national radio networks that draw about half the national audience. You can't take these away without

dislodging the spoken word from its pre-eminence in the national psyche. It is funny how people fail to realise how dependent they are on the BBC for the kind of radio they like. They don't even realise that they are paying for it. The BBC made a big mistake when it dropped the word "radio" from its licence fee.

When the late Brian Wenham was masterminding the BBC's ill-fated venture into direct-broadcast satellites, I asked him on a panel whether the BBC had lost the envelope on the back of which it had done its sums. "If it has, it doesn't matter," he said smoothly, brandishing an envelope before the Edinburgh Television Festival audience. "I've done them again right here."

As *The Times's* perceptive obituary pointed out, Wenham, former head of BBC radio and much else, who died last week at 60, was probably too sardonic ever to have become BBC director-general.

Such was his ascerbic that, when the alternative history of the BBC is written, his name will probably not even be on the list (with Isaacs, Fox, Tusa and Dimbleby) of the best director-generals the BBC never had. But it will be high among those counted on to steer the corporation towards the next century. At the BBC, his ironic intelligence ought to have found its natural home.



BRENDA MADDOX

The Client's Story

ALL THE glory goes to the creatives and the agencies when a new advert appears. But what of the person who bought the ad, the person who said yes, the person with nerves of steel, the person who crossed their fingers and signed the cheque?



Peugeot 306 commercial: a woman spies a handsome man who is wearing ripped jeans and lathering up a car and wonders what else he might be good at

● PEUGEOT 306

THE CLIENT
Kel Walker, 46, Director, Advertising and Sales Promotion, Peugeot.

WHERE ELSE HAVE YOU WORKED?

I've been at Peugeot for 17 years. Before that, at Lucas.

THE PRODUCT

The Peugeot 306.

THE AD AGENCY

Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper.

WHAT'S THE PLOT?

A guy is washing the car. A woman gets out of bed with someone and watches from the upstairs window. Is he the handyman or maybe the gardener? There's a passionate embrace. The denouement is that they are actually man and wife and the person in the bed was their baby son.

WAS IT EXPENSIVE?

All adverts are expensive.

WHO WAS IT AIMED AT?

Men between 25-45 who require a family car but don't want to be boring.

WHAT'S THE STRATEGY?

The same as the "Nice car, want to show me what it can do?" ad. It's telling someone who is moving on from a youthful GTI or a Jeep and saying to himself, "Oh my God, I'm a dad!" — despite having a family, you don't have to be boring.

DOES SEX SELL?

It isn't sex, it's sensuality. Sex loses half the audience but sensuality is a great way in.

WHAT WILL WOMEN MAKE OF ALL THIS SEX, SORRY, SENSUALITY?

If anything, the ad is more applicable to ladies than it is to men.

HOW FAR WILL YOU TAKE IT IN FUTURE? NUDITY? SIMULATED SEX?

Absolutely not. This is a celebration of marriage. Nudity would be entirely inappropriate.

ANY CENSORSHIP PROBLEMS?

No. There's no editor's cut with the spicy bits left in.

DID YOU CHANGE ANYTHING?

Only bits and pieces, angles on the car, things like that.

HAPPY?

Absolutely thrilled.

WHAT'S THE BEST AD YOU HAVE EVER BOUGHT?

The "Search for the Hejo" 406 launch film. I thought it was a massive film.

AND THE WORST?

A couple of years ago, we ran a series of ads for the 405 Quasar. A couple talking about product features. It was the least memorable ad ever.

DAVID MCGRATH

Bullock has Labour pains

NEW LABOUR has claimed its first adland victim in the shape of Jonathan Bullock, the high-profile, highly vocal lobbyist for the industry's trade body, the Advertising Association.

Mr Bullock, who has rallied most successfully for continuing commercial freedom and the virtues of the self-regulatory system, has resigned his post after several years in the hot seat.

Being a former parliamentary candidate for the Conservative Party and a committed Eurosceptic, he evidently found the idea of forging close ties with Tony Blair and his team slightly unpalatable.

"It's very different lobbying a political party in opposition to having to form a strong relationship with a Labour Government," said Mr Bullock, his teeth audibly clenched.

A KEY debate is taking place in advertising circles over the supposed death of the long-copy press ad.

Several older members of the creative fraternity are claiming that the art of writing press ads is dying out. They say the new generation of copywriters is "not comfortable with words" and is opting for snappier, single-line executions and big images rather than big blocks of text.

The trend is also spilling over into commercials, they claim, with TV ads increasingly consisting of a series of glossy, disparate images strung together with no real central narrative or theme.

By way of defence, the industry's Young Turks claim they are simply pondering to consumers' shortening attention spans, but one old-school creative director retorts: "If this were true, people wouldn't still be reading books, and newspapers would be only a series of pictures."

THIS year's prestigious Design & Art Direction awards, to be officially presented at the Odeon Leicester Square on

May 21, have proved to be a bumper crop.

More executions have got into "the book", the annual showcase of top creativity to be published in November, than ever before. As many as 18 silvers have been awarded, suggesting that standards are up on last year.

Most interestingly, however, several long-running campaigns for household-name products have also been awarded, alongside the rather more alternative campaigns typically favoured by the association.

Names such as Persil, Mo-



New broom: Tony Blair

Donald's, British Gas and Walkers Crisps have gained recognition, as well as the more usually celebrated work for such clients as Nike and Levi Strauss.

"It's not just training shoes and fast cars but tricky consumer goods areas such as washing powder and crisps that are being rewarded, and that is very heartening for the industry," says one judge.

Only one gold has been handed out, however — for the Dodds sponsorship credits of ITV movie premieres.

BELINDA ARCHER

MEDIA, SALES & MARKETING

Oxford University Press

HR OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to develop your HR career within this leading publishing organisation with operations in over 50 countries?

PERSONNEL OFFICER

Your key objective will be to provide a first-class generalist service to business units including running recruitment campaigns and advising line managers. You will already have 2 years' previous HR generalist experience.

TRAINING OFFICER

A real opportunity to develop a training career. Your key objective will be to assist in the administration, planning and implementation of a diverse range of management and general courses. Candidates will possess previous experience of training administration and some knowledge of the training process.

To meet these challenges you will be a strong organiser with the ability to prioritise and work to deadlines, along with exceptional presentation, communication and written skills. A strong team player with a proactive and flexible approach, you will be educated to degree level and highly computer literate.

In return we offer a salary in the range £17k - £19k depending on experience plus benefits, combined with exciting opportunities for self-development in a truly international environment.

Please fax your CV to our retained consultants:
Janette Teager & Associates
Human Resource Management Consultants
Fax: 0181-847 5208 Tel: 0181-568 5516

An equal opportunities employer

EXCELLENT PACKAGES + BONUSES

SALES PEOPLE

Energetic Salespeople with proven track record in closing, required for international retail company to sell a variety of products here and overseas.
Languages useful, but not essential.
Field sales and Telesales people needed urgently.

Apply in writing with CV and current passport to Ref: A/GS

220 Bank Court Road

London SW5 9QB

Fax: 0171 835 1943

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

£25,000 + ++

We are a small City recruitment consultancy with a top name in the supply of legal secretaries and support staff, and as a result of a steadily expanding market we are looking for two good sales people who would like to train from scratch as recruitment consultants. Provided you have a good sales background and a great deal of determination we can offer salaries ranging from £25,000 to £40,000 in one first year, and a career which will take you a great deal further. Age 23-35.

Call 0171 256 7707.

Lawson Clark Recruitment.

NEGOTIATOR

Required for

International Publisher

Requires

Proven high flyer

for

ADVERTISING TELESALLES

Basic & Commission UTE

£17-45,000

Full training given

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

Call Brian 0171 495 3184

SALES MANAGER - Latin America

Strategic role developing business with governments

Southern
England
base

£40,000
+ bonus
+ benefits

To achieve my client's business objectives for this important, growing market you will need to be a professional Manager already selling into Latin America and therefore familiar with local business practice. This market leading UK company has an established presence and substantial sales in a number of countries and wishes to build on this success by opening new markets.

The company provides local and national government departments with high quality technical/systems solutions, often in conjunction with major IT system providers. Familiarity with IT systems sales would therefore be particularly relevant but of equal importance is the ability to develop business with governments.

The successful candidate, who will spend significant periods in the territory, will ideally be a graduate with a minimum of five years' relevant market experience. Demonstrable success in building relationships with agents and customers and in winning business for complex systems and post-contract support packages is essential. Fluency in Spanish or Portuguese is highly desirable.

Career prospects within this international group are excellent.

Hales & Hindmarsh
RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

Please write enclosing a full CV quoting Ref: 1483 to Michael Salter, Director, Hales & Hindmarsh Associates Limited, 34a Jeffry Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 8RY. Tel: 01962 841851. Fax: 01962 840436.

MUSIC

INDUSTRY TRAINING

Ever considered a career in the music industry?

For Details Call:

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

0171 583 0236

FREELANCE JOURNALIST

Study from home and make

writing a new career or a

profitable second income. A

25 week Diploma Course in

Freelance Journalism.

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

National Accounts Controller

£45k + Bonus + Benefits + Car

Location: East London - Full Relocation Package

This is an outstanding opportunity to join a highly successful, multi-national of household name brands.

As a National Accounts Controller you will manage the planned growth of a wide range of market leading products and implementation of innovative and exciting marketing strategies, covering from the North East base.

The successful candidate will be involved in overseeing a balanced mix of National Accounts Managers using a high degree of strategic planning and motivating skills.

Reporting to the Sales Director you will be expected to provide the strategy and focus for the UK Sales and Marketing operations. You will interface and negotiate with National Accounts Controllers within the major multiples. The role will also allow a tangible input into the direction of the overall strategy of the UK business.

You will ideally be a high calibre Graduate aged between 25-35 and have a proven proactive "can-do" management approach with at least 4 years' Retail Multiple experience including a high exposure to sales management. In addition to the aforementioned the ideal candidate will have had exposure to both Trade Marketing and Category Management issues. Experience or knowledge of production and management will provide a very necessary appreciation of the marketing and sales mix needed to discuss the role to achieve outstanding results.

This exciting international company is offering a real career development prospect and the benefits package will probably attract candidates of Sales Director calibre.

Please fax or send your CV, quoting reference NAC0516, to Hemmingsway Executive Recruitment Limited, Suite 2 Mill Street, Chambers, 198 Street, Croydon, Surrey, Surrey CR9 3EF. Telephone 01883 447444. Fax 01883 447555.

01883 447444

01883 447444

01883 447444

01883 447444

01883 447444

01883 447444

01883 447444

01883 447444

01883 447444

01883 447444

INSIDE
SECTION

2
TODAY

FOCUS

First time as a
judge of
a book contest
PAGE 32

ARTS

Sarah and the
Woodward family
do a swashbuckler
PAGES 33-35

SPORT

Henman returns
to winning ways
after injury time
PAGES 41-48

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO

PAGES
46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY MAY 14 1997



Tony Hales, left, with Tony Trigg, finance director of Allied Domecq, which says that the strong pound knocked £14 million off its half-year profits

Allied Domecq may fight Guinness

By Sarah Cunningham

ALLIED DOMECQ, the drinks and pubs group, yesterday said that it may object to the £24 billion merger of Guinness and GrandMet on competition grounds, but also acknowledged that further consolidation in the industry could follow.

Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, said he had set up a task force to study whether the merged company, GMG Brands, which will be the world's biggest wines and spirits group, will have an unfair dominance of any markets in which Allied operates.

The market most likely to cause concern to Allied is America, Sir Christopher said. Seagram, the Canadian drinks group, has said that it will oppose the merger because of GMG's potential for dominance in the US market.

Tony Hales, Allied Domecq's chief executive, would not comment on whether it had made or received any takeover or merger approaches, but said drinks companies were bound to confer after the GMG deal.

Sir Christopher said: "It is clear that consolidation is one way forward for the industry... Any board is going to be open to opportunities that consolidation might create."

Bid speculation yesterday drove Allied Domecq shares 17p higher, to 463½p, in spite of flat interim results.

Pre-tax profit in the half year to February 28 remained at £317 million. Earnings per share edged up from 19.2p to 19.4p. The interim dividend is maintained at 9.44p.

The strong pound knocked £14 million off the half-year profits. The company said the full-year figure will be £28 million.

Sir Christopher said that the disruption to Guinness and GrandMet from merging could offer opportunities to Allied, with some fall-out of spirits brands possible.

Tempos, page 28

Beckett seeks to curb hostile bids

By Philip Bassett, Jason Nisse and Jon Ashworth

THE President of the Board of Trade is aiming to introduce proposals to make hostile bids much less likely to succeed.

A review of competition legislation is to be announced in the Queen's Speech today, with Sir Gordon Borrie, the former director-general of fair trading, leading a Royal Commission to look at all aspects of takeover rules.

However, Margaret Beckett is pressing for a reform of the Competition Act, which will shift the onus of proof in hostile takeovers, so that firms seeking control would be required to demonstrate that it would be in the public interest for their bid to succeed. This was Labour Party policy until a few months ago but was not mentioned during the election campaign and not included in Labour's manifesto.

The City is expected to resist any move to stop hostile bids, which have generated more than £500 million in fees over the past two years. Among the largest aggressive offers have been Glaxo's £9.2 billion purchase of Wellcome, Granada's £3.6 billion takeover of Forté and Renault buying BET for £2.1 billion.

Senior corporate financiers were surprised to see the issue re-emerge as they were convinced they had persuaded Labour that the rule made no sense. The head of mergers and acquisitions at a leading merchant bank said: "There is no point having different rules for hostile and agreed bids. The only difference is whether the management agrees. These proposals will only serve to protect bad management."

Another senior corporate financier argued that instituting a new element of uncertainty over the potential success of a bid could put off

purchasers from abroad. "This could deter foreign investment in the UK," he said.

David von Simson, managing director of SBC Warburg, said the way the public interest criteria would work would depend on who was making the decisions. "It increases the level of judgment involved in assessing a bid, because we are used to an environment where competition rulings have been fairly sensible."

Among the takeovers the City believes might have been blocked under the public interest test are the £77 million purchase of Northern Electric by CalEnergy and NorthWest Water's purchase of Norwest.

Legal advisers privately described the proposed changes as "misguided", and said they would increase the burden of paperwork on advisers, pushing up costs. Jim Wheaton, a partner in Clifford Chance, said: "How is a

bidder expected to prove positively that something is in the public interest, when so often this is only possible with the benefit of hindsight, and often several years' hindsight?"

At present, it is down to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to judge on matters of public interest. Mr Wheaton said it would be feasible for advisers to prepare a business plan, pointing to potential increases in sales, and job opportunities, but questioned what would happen if circumstances changed, and jobs were lost.

David Hall, head of competition and regulation at Linklaters & Paines, said highlighting the public interest element in hostile bids would change the way evidence is submitted to the MMC and enquiries conducted.

Commentary, page 27
Business proposals, page 29

Deal could trigger GrandMet payout

By Jason Nisse and Alasdair Murray

GRAND METROPOLITAN may be forced to pay out millions of pounds to senior staff who were previously unlikely to receive bonuses because of the £23.8 billion merger with Guinness.

The group's legal advisers are studying the company's phantom share option scheme to see whether the merger will trigger change of control clauses. George Bull, chief executive, would receive more than £1 million if the scheme is forced to pay out. Bonuses to another 19 directors could total £10 million.

David Tagg, GrandMet's company secretary, said that without the merger the

scheme was unlikely to pay out because of the relatively poor performance of GrandMet's shares since the plan was introduced in 1993.

Shares in both companies lost ground yesterday as the City began to express doubts about the real benefits of the deal. Guinness fell 18p, to 584p, while GrandMet declined 16p, to 575½p.

A number of analysts, including Lehman Brothers and Kleinwort Benson, reduced the rating of both stocks. Analysts said that many benefits of the deal, especially in emerging markets, were hard to quantify and would take time to come through.

Market shrugs off Bank rate warning

By Alasdair Murray

THE stock market reached a record high yesterday in spite of a warning from the Bank of England that interest rates are likely to have to rise further.

The City was surprised by the strength of the Bank's comments in its Quarterly Inflation Report, which prompted the FT-SE 100 to halve its gains after climbing more than 50 points.

The market also lost confidence as Wall Street fell 21 points shortly after opening, but the FT-SE 100 still managed to finish 21.4 points up on the day at 4,691.0.

The Bank's call for higher rates also gave a boost to sterling. The pound jumped

two pennies from its day low to close at DM2.7696, compared with an opening price of DM2.7631.

Sterling's trade weighted index finished up 0.3 at 98.8. The pound also gained over half a cent against the dollar, closing at \$1.6318.

Analysts said the renewed fear of interest rate rises coupled with uncertainty over the mini-Budget could cause some market volatility in the next few weeks. But stock shortages in the main sectors should limit any falls on the stock market unless there is a major decline on Wall Street.

Commentary, page 27

Saudi prince takes £25m stake in Cordiant

By Jason Nisse



Prince al-Waleed: relaxed

PRINCE al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi prince whose portfolio of investments ranges from Canary Wharf to Euro Disney, has snapped up a £25 million stake in Cordiant, the advertising group that plans to split into three later this year.

The move came with a message of support for Bob Secler, chief executive of Cordiant, who is proposing a demerger giving separate listings for the Saatchi & Saatchi

and Bates networks and autonomy to the Zenith media buying group. Mr Secler's objective is to raise the group's share price, which was up 1½p to 129½p yesterday, to the equivalent of 200p.

Prince al-Waleed said: "I think the Cordiant management has done a very good job so far to improve the performance of the company."

The purchase is the latest in a line of high-profile investments by the Saudi prince, who started his investment career with \$15,000 lent to him by his father.

He came to the market's attention when he purchased a 5 per cent stake in TWA, the distressed US airline, in the late 1980s. This was followed by the successful purchase of 15 per cent of Citicorp, the US banking group.

A buying spree in 1994 and 1995 saw him take stakes in Euro Disney, Canary Wharf,

the Four Seasons hotel group, Fininvest, the media group built up by Silvio Berlusconi, and Saks 5th Avenue, the department store chain. His most recent large purchase was a stake in Apple Computer.

Prince al-Waleed's investment style is understood to be relaxed, taking advice mainly from a small corporate finance boutique called Hotel Capital Partners, and Arthur Andersen, the accountants.

PIA toughens deadlines for pensions mis-sellers

By Robert Miller

CITY watchdogs have set tough new deadlines for 25 life offices and financial advisers to compensate more than 550,000 victims who were misled by personal pension plans.

Those who fail to meet the timetable can expect "punitive" fines to be handed down that will add to the estimated £4 billion total bill for clearing up the scandal.

In a "name them and shame them" exercise, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the regulator for firms selling direct to the public, yesterday set individual targets for the most urgent cases to be dealt with. More than half the pension companies, including Abbey Life, Allied Dunbar, Equitable, Pearl and Windsor Life have been given until the end of the year. Others, whose internal review systems appear to be more advanced, will have earlier deadlines.

These companies include the Prudential, NatWest, Barclays and Legal & General.

By publishing the deadlines the PIA has put in place the first step necessary to allow disciplinary proceedings to begin. Colette Bowe, chief executive of the PIA, told The Times: "We intend to institute disciplinary proceedings where necessary and companies should be under no illusions about the consequences of failing to meet their timetables."

The PIA said that 570,000 mis-selling cases had been identified for review, where investors were wrongly advised to transfer out of generous occupational and company schemes, or not to join, in favour of personal pension

plans. Many were nurses, miners, fire and police officers and other local authority employees, who enjoy guaranteed benefits not available from the private sector.

The watchdog added that only 50,300 cases had been assessed and of these only 12,650 had accepted compensation offers worth a total of £102 million.

Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, said: "I welcome the fact that these targets have now been set. The excuses have to stop. Firms can be under no illusion that results are expected from them and expected soon. There is no room at all for the faintest piece of complacency."

As before, the new PIA measures insist that wherever possible victims are reinstated in their old scheme with no loss of benefits. If that course is not possible then life offices will be allowed to issue legally binding guarantees, which will be vetted by the authorities, including the Department of Trade and Industry, the body responsible for the financial strength of pension companies.

Privately, City watchdogs are "delighted" at the timely intervention of Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury. Today, Ms Liddell, flanked by Sir Andrew and Ms Bowe, will leave the 25 worst offenders in no doubt that the Government has put sorting out the long-running pensions mis-selling scandal top of the agenda.

Commentary, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	4691.0 (+81.4)
FTSE All share	2230.66 (+8.47)
Nikkei	20129.11 (+14.40)
Dow Jones	7288.45 (+3.30)
S&P Composite	936.36 (+1.30)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond	96 3/8% (96 3/8%)
Yield	6.89% (6.89%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month bank bill	8 1/4% (8 1/4%)
6-month bank bill	11 1/4% (11 1/4%)

STERLING	
New York	1.6318* (1.6236)
London	1.6318 (1.6248)
DM	0.7178* (0.7250)
FF	0.3285 (0.3194)
SFR	2.3445 (2.3326)
Yen	194.19 (192.35)
£ index	103.4 (103.4)

DOLLAR	
London	1.6318* (1.6236)
DM	0.7178* (0.7250)
FF	0.3285 (0.3194)
SFR	2.3445 (2.3326)
Yen	194.19 (192.35)
£ index	103.4 (103.4)

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Jul)	\$16.80 (\$16.45)

GOLD	
London close	\$348.05 (\$350.15)

BUSINESS PLEA	
Business leaders called for a "real partnership" with the Government, while warning against increases in corporate tax and attacking the Government's plans to legislate on late payment of business debts.	Page 26

BOC falls	
BOC, the industrial gases group, blamed the strength of sterling for a fall in pre-tax profits to £216 million in the first half.	Page 27, Tempos 28

PEOPLES

Britain's Biggest Specialist

Free hands-free kit

- FREE hands-free enables you to keep both hands on the steering wheel whilst driving
- Top brand Nokia 1611 digital phone
- FREE calls - 15 mins every month forever
- Line rental at just \$17.50 inc VAT
- Per second billing with **WORLDWIDE**

ALL THIS FOR ONLY
£19.99

180 stores nationwide

to place an order or for your nearest store

call free 0800 10 11 12

Offer is subject to status, availability and connection to a Vodafone GSM tariff at £35.00 inc VAT on a new number to a new standard contract. Offer is not available in conjunction with any other offers. Offer ends 31st May 1997.

Shell under attack on two fronts over Nigeria

By CARL MORTISHED

SHELL'S operations in Nigeria came under violent attack from community groups yesterday just as the head office in London prepared to fend off verbal slings and arrows from dissident shareholders at today's annual meeting.

Armed youths invaded Shell's Nembe Creek fields in the Delta, forcing the oil company to shut in some 120,000 barrels per day of oil production, equivalent to about 10 per cent of the country's oil output. The attack on the flow station follows a succession of disputes and

hostage takings in which Shell has been used as a target for local communities expressing their grievance against the Government.

Brian Anderson, managing director of Shell's operations in Nigeria, said that the company was being used as a tool to get attention and said that Shell had been pressing the Government for a better deal for the people in the Delta. However, he rejected calls for Shell to condemn human rights abuses by the Government of Nigeria. "It is not my business to do so," he said.

Mr Anderson blamed late payment of cash calls by its state-owned partner for slow

progress in environmental improvements and community projects in the country. The oil company yesterday produced an environmental report on its Nigerian activities just as a US-based environmental group, Project Underground, published accusations of environmental damage by the oil company. The document labelled *Independent Annual Report* alleges that analyses of drinking water in the Niger Delta showed hydrocarbons up to 680 times higher than EC limits.

Mr Anderson said that Shell's partner, Nigeria Petroleum Corporation, controls 35 per cent of the joint venture, which

produces the bulk of the African country's oil and gas exports and was responsible for an equivalent share of the investment. However, he said there were continuing difficulties with late payment.

Shell's critics, mainly environmental groups and human rights organisations, such as the British Section of Amnesty International, have demanded that Shell take a moral stand against the Nigerian Government but the resolution being put to today's AGM merely calls for effective monitoring of environmental policies and an external audit of performance.

Chambers call for dialogue with Blair

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders yesterday called for a "real partnership" with the new Government, while warning against increases in corporate tax and attacking the Government's plans to legislate on late payment of business debts.

Tony Blair's new administration will today set out in the Queen's Speech a legislative programme with measures of direct concern to business.

Leaders of the British Chambers of Commerce, at their annual conference in Cardiff, yesterday made clear their concern about the extent of planned legislation, and urged ministers to consult widely with business on measures such as a proposed statutory minimum wage.

However, David Richardson, BCC president, took a co-operative line, saying: "The new Government has hit the ground running — but it will

require more than enthusiasm to deliver the goods. We want to help. Business must play its part in meeting this challenge. We want a real partnership with Government."

Mr Richardson said business looked to the Government to consult it fully and hold a "constructive dialogue".

BCC leaders called on ministers to manage the economy to give sustained economic growth in a way that did not harm competitiveness. They urged Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to make "modest but effective adjustments to personal taxation" in his first Budget to take some heat out of consumer spending as people receive an estimated £2 billion in building society flotations.

Mr Richardson opposed new taxes on business, but seemed to accept their inevitability, saying: "Over a period of time it is inevitable that there will be corporate tax changes, because this government uses the corporate environment differently from the last one."

He criticised the government plan, to be in the Queen's Speech, to offer firms a statutory right to interest on late debts, which, he said, was likely to "exacerbate the problem rather than cure it".

However, Barbara Roche, the Trade Minister, who yesterday met CBI small business leaders to seek late support for the plan, insisted that it had widespread business backing, even though only the Forum of Private Business has publicly favoured it.

Rodney Leach, chairman of Jardine Matheson, told the conference that European monetary union represented "three steps back for democracy for Britain" and had a "fatal" economic flaw.

Business proposals, page 29



John Bennett, Westbury's finance director, left, with Martin Donohue

Westbury at the double

By MARTIN BARROW

WESTBURY, the house-builder that expanded significantly with the £61 million takeover of Clarke Homes last year, yesterday reported a sharp rise in annual profits and said that it had made a strong start to the current year.

In the 12 months to the end of February, profits rose to £22.6 million, from £11.5 million, on turnover that advanced to £220.13 million, from £152.19 million. The number of homes sold by Westbury rose 35 per cent to 3,534, with a 13 per cent increase in the average selling price, to £77,142.

The company, whose chief executive is Martin Donohue, increased its landbank to 9,400 plots, with planning

consent for 8,700. The company said that the new financial year had started well in an improved market place.

The company is paying a final dividend of 4.5p a share, lifting the total dividend to 10p per share to 6.65p. The shares rose 11p to 264.5p, compared with a price of 150p at the time of the rights issue to fund the Clarke purchase.

Commentary, page 27

Criminal complaint filed against Nomura

FROM ROBERT WHITMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S securities watchdog filed a criminal complaint against Nomura Securities and three former executives in connection with payoffs to corporate blackmailers.

In a setback for Japan's largest stockbroker, the Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission (SESC) decided to press charges against Nomura itself as well as the three individuals.

At issue is a payment of 49 million yen (£251,000) made by Nomura in 1995 to a property company owned by the brother of Ryuzhi Kohke, a prominent *sokajaya*, or corporate racketeer.

In the complaint filed with the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office, the Commission claimed that the payment constituted compensation of investment losses, a practice forbidden by the Securities and Exchange Law.

Named in the complaint are Nomura Securities, Shimpel Matsuki and Nobutaka Fujikura, two former managing directors, and Osamu Fujita, a former executive of the general affairs department.

Nomura allegedly made the payment out of profits gained in its own stock transactions. The three are alleged to have falsified documents to make it look as if the property company itself made the capital gains from shares it owned.

The Commission suspects that Nomura and the three executives funnelled the proceeds to the company to help it cover huge losses it had suffered in stock deals. The reason for this favoured treatment was the company's connection with the *racketeers' group* led by Mr Kohke. The executives feared that unless the group was paid off, it might cause trouble at Nomura's shareholders' meeting in June 1995.

Sokajaya are extortionists who threaten to expose dubious practices that are apparently rife in corporate Japan.

John D Wood target for possible bid

JOHN D WOOD, the estate agency based in central London, has been approached by a potential bidder, it emerged yesterday. The company's shares rose 5½p to 120p, valuing the business at more than £10 million. Savills, the rival estate agent, denied that it was interested, as did the Woolwich Building Society, owner of one of the UK's biggest estate agency chains. One possible bidder is Hambro Countrywide, an agricultural property. George Pope, the company's finance director, said: "The offer has come out of the blue." He refused to comment on how long any negotiations might take. John D Wood has moved from incurring a loss of £497,000 four years ago to returning a profit of £729,000 last year, on turnover of £7.6 million. The company has benefited from the marked upturn in the London property market, where prices have outperformed most other regions of the country.

Courtaulds improves

COURTAULDS TEXTILES said that trading so far this year has continued to improve in line with the second half of 1996. The company, one of the main clothing suppliers to Marks and Spencers, noted encouraging year-on-year progress in Britain and the United States. John Eccles, chairman, told the annual meeting: "Our reorganisation programme remains on schedule and within budget and at this early stage of the year we are comfortably meeting our overall financial targets." The shares rose 1p to 285p.

One owner for Ellesse

PENTLAND, the sports and leisure brand group, has acquired the Ellesse brand for North America for \$16.5 million in cash. Pentland acquired the Ellesse brand in 1993 and controls it everywhere but North America and Japan. The company said that while the deal will have no immediate impact on its profits beyond the loss of interest earnings on the amount paid, the ability to control the distribution and marketing of the brand in the North American market will generate additional profits in the longer term.

Gotaas-Larsen sold

GOTAAAS-LARSEN, the shipping group, is being sold by the Barclay brothers to Osprey Maritime of Singapore, for US\$750 million. Gotaas-Larsen, based in London, specialises in the transportation of liquefied natural gas and crude oil. After the acquisition, Osprey will own 30 vessels and manage another six liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers, making it one of Asia's largest energy transport groups. The Barclays acquired Gotaas-Larsen for \$670 million in 1988.

T&B bids for rival

TIBBETT & BRITTEN has made a formal offer for Applied Distribution, valuing its fellow transport and distribution company at £16.8 million. Tibbett, which announced its intention to bid last Friday, is offering one share for every 13 shares in Applied Distribution, valuing each share at 48p. Directors of Applied Distribution, with certain institutional investors, have given irrevocable acceptances in respect of 34.7 per cent of the shares. Tibbett shares held at 622½p yesterday.

Rolls wins Brazil deal

ROLLS-ROYCE hopes for work worth up to \$120 million in a deal it has won to sell to Rio-Sul, Brazil's second-largest regional airline, ten Allison AE 300A engines, with options for 20 more. Deliveries should start in the autumn. The engines will be made by Allison Engine Company, a Rolls-Royce subsidiary in the US. Rolls-Royce yesterday won Civil Aviation Authority approval for a new engine for Boeing 747-400 planes. It is higher than its 524 predecessor and has a better fuel burn.

BTR sells in US

BTR, the industrial conglomerate, took another step towards completion of its massive disposal programme with the sale of a US office furniture business. The £41 million sale of AllSteel to Hon Industries, of Iowa, means BTR has sold more than 80 per cent of the £2.3 billion worth of businesses it identified for disposal. The AllSteel sale was dependent on BTR retaining £12 million worth of liabilities connected with the business.

Progress for Thistle

THISTLE HOTELS, the hotel chain that joined the market in October, said occupancy has jumped 5 per cent in the first three months of the year, with rates per room 10 per cent ahead. It said it is making satisfactory progress in switching from leisure to commercial markets, with revenue from business trips expected to speak for half of turnover by the full year. Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits of £94.8 million (£27.7 million last year). Its shares gained 3½p to 169p.

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia \$	8.18	Bank of China	8.18	Bank of India	8.18
Belgium Fr	20.40	Bank of Korea	8.18	Bank of Japan	8.18
Canada \$	60.12	Bank of Mexico	8.18	Bank of New Zealand	8.18
Cyprus Cyp	2.27	Bank of Norway	8.18	Bank of Portugal	8.18
Denmark Kr	1.08	Bank of Spain	8.18	Bank of Sweden	8.18
Finland Mk	0.65	Bank of Switzerland	8.18	Bank of Taiwan	8.18
France Fr	6.55	Bank of the Netherlands	8.18	Bank of Thailand	8.18
Germany Dr	1.75	Bank of the Philippines	8.18	Bank of the Virgin Islands	8.18
Greece Dr	2.25	Bank of the West Indies	8.18	Bank of the Cayman Islands	8.18
Hong Kong \$	7.75	Bank of the Turks and Caicos	8.18	Bank of the British Virgin Islands	8.18
Ireland Pt	1.25	Bank of the Falkland Islands	8.18	Bank of the Gibraltar	8.18
Israel Sh	1.35	Bank of the Azores	8.18	Bank of the Madeira	8.18
Italy Lit	2.00	Bank of the Azores	8.18	Bank of the Madeira	8.18
Japan Yen	208.30	Bank of the Azores	8.18	Bank of the Madeira	8.18

An office with a phone. How novel.

The Nokia 9000 Communicator. A phone, fax, Web browser, E-Mail terminal, SMS message device and personal organiser in one.

At selected outlets of Dixons, Dixons Tax Free, John Lewis Partnership, PC World, Peoples Phone, Talkland, The Carphone Warehouse, The Link and all good independent retailers and computer dealers.

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

Nokia and the arrow symbol are registered trademarks.

Pay up or face the consequences



COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

There can be no more excuses. The life and pensions companies that were guilty of mis-selling personal pensions now have a timetable within which they must compensate their victims. Should they fail to comply, the clear message from the City's regulators yesterday was that heavy penalties will ensue.

Perhaps their newly determined manner owes something to the arrival of the feisty Helen Liddell as Economic Secretary to the Treasury, for she has wasted no time in indicating a lack of tolerance for the lethargy the industry has so far exhibited over the scandal. It is astonishing that, two-and-a-half years after the problem was diagnosed, 570,000 individuals have still to be compensated.

But it is in the industry's own interests to inject some urgency into clearing up the mess it created instead of resorting to blocking tactics such as threats of judicial review. With the reform of the state pension system, the Government will be redirecting vast sums towards the private sector. To whom that money is entrusted, and on what terms, must be influenced by the way the companies now acquit themselves.

From now on the pensions companies must not only move swiftly to make sure redress is paid but that it is a full and fair amount. Many victims do not know how much they are owed, and by the time they find out that they have been short-changed it

will be too late to do anything about it.

A number of the mis-sold personal pensions plans were bought from independent advisers who have subsequently gone out of business. The financial burden of compensation should not fall on the already hard pressed Investors Compensation Scheme but back on the pension providers. To cry, as they have so often in the past, that in law there is no duty of care on the life office, is unacceptable.

The industry should pay up, and fast. And it should then concentrate on ensuring that such disgraceful mis-selling never occurs again.

That may require more drastic measures than optimistic compliance plans. What is required is a complete change of culture.

Many life offices have already moved to paying a basic salary to sales staff but the carrot held out to the ambitious is that they can make their fortunes. Fine. Incentivise staff by all means but the warnings from watchdogs over "star" City trader salaries and the risks they pose to corner cutting are just as applicable to personal pensions, or indeed any commission-based investment, as they are to the derivatives markets.

Recruiting the right sales staff is crucial to the success of any financial operation, but what calibre of person is being targeted in a job advertisement that reads as follows: "You should earn at least £20,000 in your first year, but £30,000 is probably more realistic. After that, thanks to a unique high-performance bonus package, your drive and ambition will deliver rewards where the sky really is the limit." Is that a fitting job description for a guardian angel?

Cassius delivers a farewell soliloquy

Eddie George may have been delighted with Gordon Brown's action-man decision to give the central bank operational control of interest and exchange rates. But the authors of the Bank of England's Quarterly Inflation Report were caught as much in mid-stride as everyone else. The Governor has

spent the past few years adjusting to the well-defined role of monetary advocate in an open dialogue with Kenneth Clarke. Yesterday's report was another example of Cassius George persuading the Chancellor's Brutus to do the dirty deed, except that Brutus Brown has exited right and absented himself for the rest of the play.

Debate will not be re-established fully until outside monetary commissioners are co-opted. With the insiders, they will make an eight-strong decision-making committee for the interim period before Mr Brown can enact his changes, bring in another deputy governor and, by the way, neutralise Mr George's casting vote.

Regardless of the numerical balance of power, this committee will have to produce Inflation Reports in a different tone. They should deliver a judgment rather than merely stating the case for the prosecution.

That responsibility will present the committee with old

questions that stand out in yesterday's report but which the Bank as advocate did not need to answer. In the drive to curb inflation, is a rise in interest rates the equivalent of a tight, tax-raising Budget, or do powerful monetary influences boost inflation regardless of fiscal policy and total demand?

The bedrock of the Bank's hawkish stance is that the economy is growing faster than its sustainable long-term trend. Even if you accept that, pending another raft of optimistic supply-side reforms, it can be dealt with as easily through fiscal policy with less pain to manufacturing, investment and the housing market. But the Bank does not think that is enough. So, just in case, it is now making more noise about excessive growth of money supply and credit, which have been neglected of late.

There may be only a difference of degree between the economy growing too fast for its own good and money demand growing too

fast for the economy to supply. But there can be a big difference for policy. In the latter former case, higher interest rates are better targeted. By the time the new committee has begun to argue that one, however, Mr Brown will have delivered his first Budget. There is no call for any further monetary action until that has been fully digested.

Capital Corp shuffles the pack

Capital Corporation seems to be losing confidence in its abilities to fend off London Clubs International. While the Monopolies Commission is deciding whether to allow this bid to be put back on track, the Capital board is indulging in some rapid restructuring.

Garry Nesbitt is relegated to non-executive status. The man who made his fortune from founding the Our Price chain of record shops was increasingly seen as a liability in the betting business. Leaving with him are Kenneth Thompson, the former managing director who apparently was not getting on with the rest of the board, and the company secretary, who had been acting finance director. In

comes Andrew Chandler — a real finance director at last — and there is a promotion for Ernest Sharp, who is taking the chairmanship at a sprightly 66.

They inherit a mess of a company where large numbers of head office staff walked out a few weeks ago and even before these people went there were serious concerns about management controls. Despite the disharmony at home, it seems that Capital's meagre management had been considering a bid for a London casino that had little synergy with its core assets, which are aimed at international high rollers.

It is hard to see why the MMC had to become involved. A monopoly position in the London market is not an issue when punters jet in from Monte Carlo and Las Vegas. The commission should have the deal through and allow Capital's shareholders to decide if they want to back this tarnished management.

Beckett's law

THE public interest is a wonderfully variable concept. If Margaret Beckett has her way and contested bids are to be judged on this criteria, we can expect some imaginative submissions from corporate financiers and their clients. But are lower prices more in the public interest than more jobs? The answer will lie with the Secretary of State and its subjectivity should ensure competition policy remains as opaque as it is today.

BOC blames pound for interim decline

By CARL MORTIMER

BOC, the industrial gases group, blamed the strength of sterling for a decline in pre-tax profit in the first six months of its financial year.

The pound damaged export margins at BOC's Sussex-based vacuum technology business and the translation of overseas profits into sterling left group pre-tax profits at £216 million (£217 million), after a 2 per cent fall in sales.

However, Danny Rosenkranz, BOC's chief executive, said the company had made good progress, with strong demand from the North Pacific region, and in the US. On constant exchange rates, BOC's turnover would have been up 5 per cent, with pre-tax profits up 6 per cent.

Edwards, BOC's struggling

vacuum technology business, was worst affected by the enhanced value of the pound. Profits of £24.9 million for the six months to March were 29 per cent down on the first half of the previous year, with 13 per cent of the decline through loss of margin from currency movements. Edwards exports 90 per cent of its products, of which half are pumps used to create the vacuum needed in the manufacture of semiconductors, an industry that has recently suffered a downturn.

Mr Rosenkranz said the semiconductor equipment industry was still relatively depressed. "For the next year to 18 months, this industry could be unhappy. We won't see strong underlying growth until the end of next year or

1999," he predicted. BOC's core industrial gases business raised operating profit 1 per cent to £199 million, mainly because of strong profit gains in Japan and other North Pacific markets.

BOC's US gases business was held back by the cost of a £4 million restructuring and the translation of dollar profits into sterling but the company expects to benefit from robust demand. Weak manufacturing output in the UK in the first quarter kept the lid on growth in the UK, where BOC faces stiff price competition in the market for liquefied gas.

BOC's healthcare division, still being affected by competition, on price, to its Forane anaesthetic product, saw profits fall 8 per cent, to £26.1

million. The company said that price erosion was slowing and Forane was holding its share of the market.

Mr Rosenkranz said that BOC hedged the currency risk in transactions, mainly for its vacuum technology business. BOC's cashflow grew strongly in the first half because of better control of working capital but capital expenditure also rose, from £324 million to £359 million. BOC is paying a second interim dividend of 14.5p in August, after earnings of 28.3p a share, up 2 per cent on the previous year. Excluding the effect of currency translation, earnings would have grown 7 per cent over the previous year.

Tempus, page 28

Zeneca to pay £46m for Dutch firm

ZENECA, the drugs and agrochemicals group, has agreed to pay £46 million for a Dutch biotechnology company that uses genetic modification to develop improved crops (Eric Reguly writes).

Zeneca is buying Mogen International, whose shares are on the listed securities market in Amsterdam, with a public share offer at £4.46 a share. Shareholders representing 51 per cent of the equity have accepted the offer. The takeover should be completed next month.

David Evans, research and development director of Zeneca Agrochemicals, said: "The acquisition... fits well with Zeneca's strategy of developing a strong position in plant biotechnology."

Mogen develops technology that gives crops such as wheat and barley resistance to fungal diseases.

Danka expects to slice \$100m from Kodak costs

By FRASER NELSON

DANKA, the business systems supplier that doubled in size in January after swallowing Kodak's photocopying arm, said that it should squeeze \$100 million of cost savings from the acquisitions over the next two years.

The company, which agreed to pay £440 million for the lion's share of Eastman Kodak's office supplies division last September, said that the integration was going well and should be largely complete within 14 months.

A three-month contribution from the Kodak business helped sales to jump by 67 per cent, to £1.32 billion, in the year to March 31, with gross profits at £198 million (£98 million). Newly-acquired businesses, which cost \$200 million before Kodak, generated £143 million of the profit.

Mark Vaughan-Lee, chair-



Vaughan-Lee: margin aim

man, said that Danka was confident that it could raise margins in the Kodak business from 2.9 per cent to the 9 per cent enjoyed by the rest of the group. This would have delivered an extra \$100 million in profits last year.

He said: "It does sound ambitious, but we have been

doing this frequently with our other acquisitions."

Mr Vaughan-Lee said that Danka would be easing away from making acquisitions this year, and concentrating on bedding in the Kodak company. He said: "If you look at the cost savings we intend to produce from this, Kodak will have made enough acquisitions for the next three years."

The company took a £45.6 million charge for the costs of integrating the Kodak business, with £20.6 million taken in the fourth quarter as borrowings rose to £775 million.

This cut pre-tax profits to £29 million, from £53.9 million, and earnings per share to 0.3p (5.7p). A final dividend of 1.3p, due on July 28, takes the total to 2.6p.

Danka shares, which have recovered from a low of 425p, rose 20p, to 567½p, yesterday.

Tempus, page 28

Doubled operating profits for GA

By ADAM JONES

GENERAL ACCIDENT more than doubled operating profits to £114 million (£55 million) in the first quarter of 1997, as better winter weather reduced claims.

The market expected yesterday's quarterly results to be good. General Accident's share price has outperformed the sector by 11 per cent this year. The shares dipped from 963p to close at 957½p.

Profit before tax was £328 million (£109 million). This figure was boosted by a £220 million gain realised as General Accident moved investments out of equity markets and into bonds.

The shift, accounting for about a tenth of the equity portfolio, is part of an ongoing policy of focusing risk on insurance activities rather than investment.

The worldwide underwriting result rose by £50 million, including a reduction in severe weather payments of £30 million.

Worldwide premium income rose slightly, to £1.51 billion (£1.47 billion). British underwriting activities made £6 million profit (£1 million loss). Sales of life and pensions products were up 9 per cent worldwide.

Bob Scott, chief executive, said the UK market, the largest source of general underwriting income, was still tough, despite the first quarter improvement. "We remain vigilant in the competitive environment which is clearly evident in most classes of business."

Tempus, page 28



Marcus Margulies gave a warning on future growth

Time shares suffer

SHARES of Time Products suffered their sharpest one-day fall in ten years yesterday after the watches and handbags company said that its recent progress had been established on potentially shaky ground (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company met market expectations by lifting pre-tax profits to £22 million (£16.6 million) for the year to January

31. However, Marcus Margulies, chairman, said: "It should not be assumed that the remarkable growth generated in recent years will be sustained over the longer term." Shares plunged 44p to 361½p.

Earnings rose from 20.2p to 26.2p. A final dividend of 7.5p lifts the total to 12p (10p), due on July 7.

Sedgwick to seek listing in New York

By ADAM JONES

SEDGWICK GROUP, the UK's biggest insurance broker, is seeking a listing on the New York Stock Exchange. It also announced results yesterday for the first quarter of 1997 showing a dip in pre-tax profits to £43.5 million (£45.3 million). The company blamed the fall on the strength of sterling, which pulled back profits by £3.4 million.

Sedgwick is currently traded on an informal basis in the US over-the-counter market. Stuart Tarrant, finance director, said that the broker wants to increase the number of US investors through a Wall Street listing of American depositary shares. They account for only 10 per cent of the shareholder base, even though more than 40 per cent of the company's business is drawn from the US. The goal is for a third of shareholders to be American.

Mr Tarrant said that the US values insurance brokers up to 25 per cent higher than London. The company hopes there will be a knock-on effect on its UK rating, which has dropped from 272p in 1991 to about 130.5p. Wall Street trading should start in June.

In the first quarter of 1997, revenue fell to £244.5 million, from £254.9 million in the corresponding period last year. Saxon Riley, chairman, said the broker is looking to opportunities in Europe similar to April's joint venture with Nikols, Italy's largest broker.

He said: "We are exploring further opportunities to develop our presence in continental Europe, where the broker's role is still underrated..."

Fuji links with JSkyB

THE News Corporation, parent company of The Times, is to announce this morning that the Fuji Television Network will join JSkyB, its satellite broadcasting business in Japan. Fuji will become an equal partner along with Sony and Softbank, the Japanese software publisher.

Fuji, one of Japan's largest terrestrial broadcasters, will provide programming content and technology to JSkyB, which aims to broadcast 150 channels by next spring. Analysts said the Fuji deal will give JSkyB a competitive edge over DirecTV, which wants to start a Japanese service in the autumn.



A flash of inspiration... The sizzle of fresh electricity... It's the dawning of a new computer era — the first no-compromise PC — powered by the Intel Pentium® II processor has arrived!

For months we've been working with Intel to take the world to the next level of computing. By adding MMX™ media enhancement instructions to their most powerful processors ever, the heart-stopping Intel Pentium II processor was created! Beyond the immediate effects of increased power and technology, you'll also enjoy software compatibility well into the future.

The Intel Pentium II processor is the "brain" of our new feature-rich system line. Excellent for the power-hungry user at work or play, we've designed our systems to give maximum power and performance. The limits of this PC will be decided only by your imagination.

Maybe your needs are simple — a multimedia machine that pushes the power envelope. Your quest will end once you check out the Gateway 2000® G6-266XL. Not only is it our top-of-the-line power-wise, the G6-266XL also comes with a three-piece Boston Acoustics™ speaker set. The sound from these PC speakers will rival that of your home stereo!

And to make sure you get THE system you've been dreaming about — we'll let you custom configure your PC. All of this and it's affordable — direct from Gateway 2000.

Don't wait any longer — the computer you've been yearning for is finally here! Give Gateway 2000 a call today!

G6-233M

- Intel 233MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 32MB EDO RAM, 512K Ultra Fast L2 Cache
- 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive
- Mitsumi 12-16X (min-max) CD-ROM
- Quantum® 3.2GB EIDE Hard Drive
- Ensoniq® 32-Bit PCI WaveTable Soundcard
- Altet® Lansing ACS410 Speakers with ACS251 Subwoofer
- STB® VIRGE GX 3D Graphics Accelerator, 4MB EDO RAM
- EuroViva 33.6K Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 17" CrystalScan™ Colour Monitor
- ATX Tower Case
- Microsoft® Windows® 95 I05 Keyboard
- MS® Windows 95, MS IntelliMouse
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition Plus
- Internet Software Bundle
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

£1799 (£2147.90 inc. VAT & Delivery)

Give Gateway 2000 a call today or drop in to the

Gateway 2000 Showroom, 10 Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9HE.

You'll be glad you did!

Showroom Hours of Business:

12.30 pm - 6.30 pm Mondays

9.30 am - 6.30 pm Tuesday - Friday

10.00 am - 4.00 pm Saturdays

Closed Sunday and Bank Holidays

FLEXIBLE BUSINESS
FINANCE OPTION.
CALL FOR DETAILS

GATEWAY2000
"You've got a friend in the business."
0800 74 2000
http://www.gw2k.co.uk



pentium® II

WORLD COVER
ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE
CALL US ON 0800 365 121

MICHAEL CLARK



Benson says clients should switch from Guinness into GrandMet.

Matthew Jordan, at Kleinwort, said: "We think it's a good merger but better for GrandMet than Guinness. It's better to be more heavily weighted to

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished £32 lower at £1147.32 in heavy turnover that saw 111,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished a tick lower at £109¹⁵/₃₂, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £16 off at £103¹⁷/₃₂.

NEW YORK: Blue chips spent most of the morning in negative territory, with the Dow Jones industrial average down 3.30 points at midday to 7,289.45.

100

[illegible]

Taylor

We have not long to wait, we are told, for the most radical Budget for 50 years. It is billed to tackle work incentives, youth, unemployment, short-termism, inequality and the fiscal deficit, to name but a few, and all without raising personal tax rates. Whatever history may have to say about Chancellor Brown, he will hardly be accused of over-modest ambitions (although he must try to break his habit of talking about "the Government" as if he was not now part of it). On the contrary, fellow Cabinet members may be wondering if there is any room left for them to be radical. Now this would be over-modest.

Consider, for example, the fat cats, and how they make themselves still richer. Do you imagine that they are feeling a little

More than one way to skin a fat cat

queasy? I doubt it. Cat food is provided in many different ways: long contracts with golden handshakes for failures; heads-I-win, tails-you-lose performance bonuses, huge fees for solving non-problems in agreed mergers; the results of those mergers — bigger salaries, less competition, and so more time for golf; share buy-backs which trigger return-on-equity rewards.

There is no need to nauseate you with a longer list. The real point should already be clear: these fells have little to do with tax regimes, and everything to do with boardroom capitalism as it is now practised. The theory

sound great: shareholder control and shareholder value. The truth, as the City radicals keep reminding us (the Government should listen to Alastair Ross-Coobey on boardroom abuses, not sack him for his politics) is that the value is all bread and circuses, and the control is a sham. Thanks partly to spineless institutions, and partly to the idiocies of insider dealing laws, we see the shareholder as mushroom kept in the dark, and covered with... you know the rest. Not a Treasury matter; Trade and Industry, rather.

Oh not Not corporate governance again? These two words are the most powerful soporific



ANTHONY HARRIS

since Ternapez: but the subject ought to be exciting, and I have a modest proposal. Establish a new class of insider shareholder, locked in but properly informed, and sitting, angrily if need be, on

the Board. How? Here is how it might work.

First, the insider dealing laws would have to be changed to allow full information to a class of trusts as investment vehicles for pension funds and others interested in the long haul.

These trusts would be forbidden to trade in the shares they hold without giving, say, 30 days' notice of their intentions. (This would no doubt have to be cleared through Brussels, so I cannot pretend that this is a short-term cure for short-termism.)

In return for illiquidity, the trusts would receive full man-

agement accounts. They would no doubt insist on board seats (especially on the remuneration committee). In the long run, this might be something like shareholder control.

The standard objection to any proposal for increased institutional control of the board is that the institutions have nobody fit to exercise it. Lord knows, old boy, it's hard enough to find half-way decent outside directors as it is. This objection, though, seems to ignore market forces.

It might be hard at first; but if long-term trusts controlled big blocks of shares, things would soon change. Big institutions

which relied on their nominees to look after their solid long-term interests would surely find ways to recruit suitable people for the job.

But can we get there from here, as the Irishman said? Not, surely, if the only temptation is the promise of more information. This, though, is where Gordon Brown might get in on the act after all.

He talks of tax incentives for long-term investment, and there are rumours of attacks on existing institutional tax privileges. So it would be logical to provide tax loopholes for institutions which would be long-term by legal definition.

A stakeholder's Budget, then? Not this time, I must admit. But not even Gordon Brown can hope to build the future in one day.

Philip Bassett outlines the measures that could change the business landscape

As she peers through her spectacles to read the first Queen's Speech under a Labour Government since 1978, Her Majesty will today announce a series of measures designed to change radically the business environment.

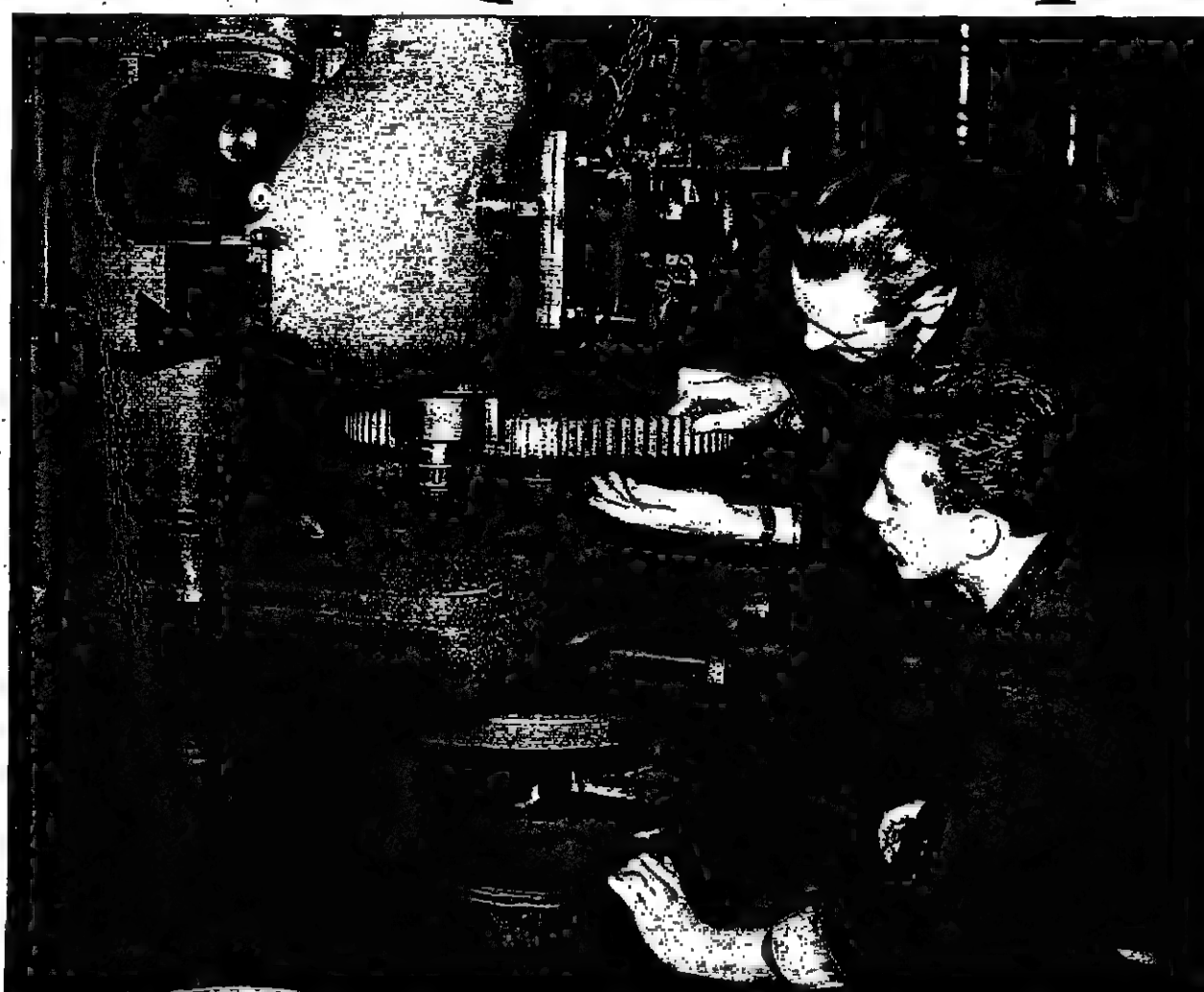
Apart from the well-flagged windfall tax and minimum wage, the speech will promise reforms ranging from a shake-up of competition policy to a reinvigorated regional development plan.

The speech will include provision for a Finance Bill, which will set in place the changes that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will lay out in his Budget. But the legislative programme includes a number of measures that will be of vital interest to industry and services in the UK.

□ **Windfall tax.** Central to the Chancellor's first Budget will be Labour's long-promised tax on the "excessive" profits of the privatised utilities, raising at least £3 billion to fund the Government's employment programme. Though it will be for the Budget itself to put the details of the tax into place, a key element for business of the legislative programme will be the new law that will give legal force to the tax.

Heads of the privatised utilities have mounted a rearguard campaign to try to deflect the tax from their businesses. But Mr Brown and his Treasury team have been steadfast in refusing their lobbying, and just as the City has now largely discounted the effect of the tax on the utilities' performance, so too have the utilities themselves. BT, the electricity, gas and water companies, BAA and others have largely realised that the tax is on the way.

□ **Welfare to work.** The Government will use the windfall tax to fund its job programmes for the young and long-term unemployed. The Queen's Speech will signal the new measures, under which companies taking on one of the 250,000 young people at which the youth programme is aimed will be given a tax rebate of £60 a week, per



The days of the apprentice may have gone, but ministers realise firms need subsidies to retrain the unemployed

person, for six months. Ministers recognise that companies may require an even greater subsidy to offer jobs to the long-term unemployed, who will require extensive retraining. So firms taking on people who have been unemployed for more than two years will be able to obtain tax rebates of £75 a week, per person.

□ **Minimum wage.** A minimum wage will be foreshadowed in today's speech with the announcement of a Low Pay Bill. Legislation is necessary to provide for a national floor under wages, and to put on a statutory footing the planned Low Pay Commission, likely to be with a membership of about 15, which will recommend to the Government a specific level for the minimum wage.

Business will try to keep its recommendation down to an hourly rate of between £3 and £3.50. Union leaders want it to be set much higher. Companies in sectors such as textiles, retailing and cleaning, traditional areas of lower pay, would be most affected by a minimum wage.

□ **Monetary policy.** Legislation is needed to enact the

changes to the operation of monetary policy announced by the Chancellor last week in his first big economic initiative. The Bill will give power to set interest rates to a new monetary policy committee to be formed by the Bank.

□ **Construction.** The speech will specify legislation to free money held by local authorities from the sale of council houses to fund a £6 billion public housebuilding programme. Construction com-



Camelot could lose the right to run the lottery

panies are likely to benefit from the programme. Ministers also believe that the programme will have a marked effect on unemployment.

□ **Small business.** Today's speech will herald a Bill to help small firms by providing a statutory right to charge interest on late payments. Small firms are divided on the issue of whether a statutory right will be of real practical help; many fear invoking it

will simply alienate the usually larger firms that owe them money. Ministers are convinced that the measure is necessary, with an estimated £2 billion cost arising to small business from late payment of debt. Large companies and government departments will be obliged to show in their annual reports the proportion of accounts that are paid late. After a prescribed period of about six weeks, small firms will be able to press companies for payment.

□ **Competition.** The Government intends to tighten current laws regulating cartels and price-fixing agreements, giving companies harmed by anti-competitive practices enhanced legal protection, backed by "stringent" financial penalties. The Competition Bill is also likely to shift the onus of proof in hostile takeovers, so that companies seeking control would be required to demonstrate that it would be in the public interest for the bid to succeed.

□ **Lottery.** There is to be a reshaping of the National Lottery, with money from its midweek draw redirected to health and education. Labour

leaders are committed to ensuring the lottery is run by a non-profit making company, and strong indications are that Camelot, the current licensee, will lose the right to run it when its licence expires.

□ **Utilities.** The Queen's Speech will include plans for legislation to restructure the utilities' regulatory frameworks. Specifically, the legislation giving power to the regulators will be changed to give equal or preferred priority in terms of the regulators' objectives to consumers, as opposed to simply the promotion of competition. The Government plans to provide for non-executive directors for the regulators, to give their decisions a broader base.

□ **Social chapter.** Legislative change is needed to meet the Government's declared intention to end the previous administration's opt-out from the European Union social protocol to the Maastricht treaty setting minimum employment standards at work. But the Government may add new provisions to apply the social chapter to Britain to a Bill to enact the outcome of the Intergovernmental Conference on the future of the EU.

□ **Regions.** The speech will include provision for legislation setting up a new national network of regional development agencies, along the lines of those that have operated successfully in Scotland and the North East.

□ **Education and skills.** Improving educational standards has been a central economic objective for British business. Companies are tired of having to act as remedial educators, teaching basic skills of reading and writing to young people at work. A Bill improving educational standards will be welcomed by business.

□ **Devolution.** The Government's proposals to reform Britain's constitution may not seem on the surface to be of central concern to business. But if people in Scotland and Wales vote for their devolved representative arrangements, business may have new legislative arrangements to deal with in those parts of the UK — and that will be of close interest to industry and services, especially in Scotland, where the planned Scottish Parliament will have tax-raising powers.

□ **Health.** Companies heavily involved in the health sector will be closely interested in the Government's proposals, to be contained in a Health Bill in the speech today, to end the internal market in the National Health Service.

Big business pitches in for \$350m Dodgers sale

Eric Reguly on a baseball bid unlikely to become a home run

Mention the O'Malley family and half the population of Brooklyn will start cursing. It was the O'Malleys who ripped the very heart and soul out of Brooklyn in 1957 when they moved the beloved — indeed worshipped — Brooklyn Dodgers from Ebbets Field to Los Angeles.

Forty years on the wounds have yet to heal. Sports-mad Brooklyn is still without their boys of summer. "There are people who still have pieces of the bleachers of Ebbets Field when they tore it down," said an American baseball fan. "It was a dark day for Brooklyn."

To no one's surprise, there were few tears shed in Brooklyn in January when the O'Malleys announced their intention to sell the Los Angeles Dodgers. Some of the oldtimers no doubt hoped the new owners would reconstruct Ebbets Field and move the Dodgers back, but most of the borough was just happy to see them give up the team.

It does not appear likely that the Dodgers are coming home.

The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, has emerged as the front-runner for the Dodgers and there are sound business reasons to leave the team where it is. The price tag, thought to be a record-breaking \$350 million, includes Dodger Stadium and its 300-acre site. The O'Malleys had hoped to build a new National Football League stadium on the site, but their plans were rebuffed by the City. Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, may have better luck.

The Dodgers have also become as popular with Angelinos as they were with Brooklynites. Since 1957 the team has won the National League crown nine times and the World Series — the grand prize of baseball — five times. The Dodgers regularly draw two million to three million spectators a season and the team has come to reflect the multiracial flavour of Southern California. Hideo Nomo, one of its squad, is the only Japanese pitcher in the league. A South Korean and several Latin Americans are on the roster.

If it still succeeds, News Corp will own a piece of American history. The Dodgers were the team that changed the face of baseball. The event happened on April 15, 1947 when Jackie Robinson, a 28-year-old black man, the son of a sharecropper and grandson of a slave, trotted onto the dia-



Nomo: striking pose

Baseball has become big business since Robinson's day. The teams, driven by the value of their broadcasting rights, have soared in value. The expected \$350 million price for the Dodgers is double the previous mark of \$172 million paid for the Baltimore Orioles in 1993.

Tempted by the fortunes to be made, families have been selling their teams to corporations. Time Warner, the world's largest media company, now owns the Atlanta Braves baseball team as well as the Atlanta Hawks basketball team. Disney/ABC has no baseball team, but owns the Mighty Ducks hockey franchise and the Anaheim Angels basketball team.

The Dodgers would be a natural fit for News Corp's Fox Sports Unit. Fox has come out of nowhere to become the sports network to watch in recent years. It has paid \$1.6 billion for American football rights, \$565 million for baseball rights and \$150 million for hockey rights. It also has a third interest in the Golf Channel.

Fox would not comment on the Dodgers deal, but a spokesman said: "When you're a media company it suits your purposes to own the content as well as the means of delivery."

Of course there is another advantage to owning a baseball team if you are a broadcaster — you get to keep the broadcasting rights to yourself.

Taylor made

AMID the post-election speculation over the great and the good in the Square Mile who have been or may one day be co-opted onto various government-created committees, one name has been noticeably absent. What does the future hold for Martin Taylor? The erudite and multilingual chief executive of Barclays has achieved wondrous things with the retail and money management side of the bank, and his high-risk plans for beefing up

Barclays de Zotte Wedd into a world-class investment banking operation are now well advanced. What would be more natural than for the 44-year-old former Courtaulds Textiles boss and one-time columnist for the *Financial Times* Lex column to throw some of his energy and enthusiasm behind another challenge, in a strictly part-time capacity? Just a thought.

A CURIOUS side-effect of the pensions review carried out by the FIA is a bull market for the humble actuary. I hear. Once derided for their conservatism, many are now finding it profitable to quit the big firms and set up as consultants, such is the workload in sorting out the value of mislaid pensions. Entrepreneurial actuaries? Whatever next?

Blue to green

ONE senior Tory has already made it to the green upland pastures of the City. David Howell, one-time Secretary of State for Energy and for Transport, has been a member of Swiss Bank Corporation's international board of advisers since 1988. He is now appointed an advisory director on economic and international policy matters for



SBC Warburg. The distinction might seem a hair-thin one, but it has to do with a full-time salary for the soon to be Lord Howell, who has retired as MP for the constituency of Guildford after 31 years.

Howell has been on the back benches for ten years, as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, so none of the usual worries about conflict of interest. And how much is that presumably six-figure salary? "I can't tell you." Can't? "I won't tell you. It's not being released." Whatever it is, he has done rather better than one former colleague, Ian Lang, ruled out of the running as chairman of Lloyd's of London last week. Word reaches me of the reason. When the shortlist was drawn up, the order was: No politics. Now just imagine

if that stricture was obeyed across the business world...

Budget cut

FRANK FIELD, the scourge of the Maxwell administrators, has had an unhappy start to his new career as Social Security Minister. The budget for a minister of state is less generous than for the chairman of the Social Services Select Committee, and he has been forced to do away with the services of his researcher, Chris Kelsey. So not so much "Welfare to Work" as "Work to Welfare".

ON the menu at City Rhodes, the new restaurant opened by Gary Rhodes: Pigeon's trotters. What terrible chimera has been bred by TV's punk chef? It transpires that these are pigs' trotters stuffed with terrine of pigeon, which sounds like the precursor to a truly terrible afternoon. Jokes the waiter: "You should see the size of the pigeon."

Brown tie

GORDON BROWN is causing high anxiety among the business community. Nothing about taxation, but more the new Government's informal, "Call me Tony" approach. The Chancellor is to address the CBI's annual dinner next week. While the CBI is rightly pleased at being the forum at which the new Chancellor will give his first significant

public speech, it has been thrown into consternation by his stipulation that, just as he will not wear white tie at next month's Mansion House dinner, he will not wear the traditional black tie at the CBI do.

MARTIN WALLER



Gary Rhodes is causing a stir at his eatery with pigeon's trotters



"Hang on, we blamed the lottery last year. Let's say it's the strong pound"

Affordable Healthcare
FREEPHONE QUOTING REF B17/DL19
0500 66 99 66
Lifelong HealthCare
Legal & General

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997 Low Company					1997 Low Company					1997 Low Company				
Price	Yld	%	PE	Ratio	Price	Yld	%	PE	Ratio	Price	Yld	%	PE	Ratio
100	4.5	4.2	28	1.0	100	4.5	4.2	28	1.0	100	4.5	4.2	28	1.0
101	4.6	4.3	27	1.1	101	4.6	4.3	27	1.1	101	4.6	4.3	27	1.1
102	4.7	4.4	26	1.2	102	4.7	4.4	26	1.2	102	4.7	4.4	26	1.2
103	4.8	4.5	25	1.3	103	4.8	4.5	25	1.3	103	4.8	4.5	25	1.3
104	4.9	4.6	24	1.4	104	4.9	4.6	24	1.4	104	4.9	4.6	24	1.4
105	5.0	4.7	23	1.5	105	5.0	4.7	23	1.5	105	5.0	4.7	23	1.5
106	5.1	4.8	22	1.6	106	5.1	4.8	22	1.6	106	5.1	4.8	22	1.6
107	5.2	4.9	21	1.7	107	5.2	4.9	21	1.7	107	5.2	4.9	21	1.7
108	5.3	5.0	20	1.8	108	5.3	5.0	20	1.8	108	5.3	5.0	20	1.8
109	5.4	5.1	19	1.9	109	5.4	5.1	19	1.9	109	5.4	5.1	19	1.9
110	5.5	5.2	18	2.0	110	5.5	5.2	18	2.0	110	5.5	5.2	18	2.0
111	5.6	5.3	17	2.1	111	5.6	5.3	17	2.1	111	5.6	5.3	17	2.1
112	5.7	5.4	16	2.2	112	5.7	5.4	16	2.2	112	5.7	5.4	16	2.2
113	5.8	5.5	15	2.3	113	5.8	5.5	15	2.3	113	5.8	5.5	15	2.3
114	5.9	5.6	14	2.4	114	5.9	5.6	14	2.4	114	5.9	5.6	14	2.4
115	6.0	5.7	13	2.5	115	6.0	5.7	13	2.5	115	6.0	5.7	13	2.5
116	6.1	5.8	12	2.6	116	6.1	5.8	12	2.6	116	6.1	5.8	12	2.6
117	6.2	5.9	11	2.7	117	6.2	5.9	11	2.7	117	6.2	5.9	11	2.7
118	6.3	6.0	10	2.8	118	6.3	6.0	10	2.8	118	6.3	6.0	10	2.8
119	6.4	6.1	9	2.9	119	6.4	6.1	9	2.9	119	6.4	6.1	9	2.9
120	6.5	6.2	8	3.0	120	6.5	6.2	8	3.0	120	6.5	6.2	8	3.0
121	6.6	6.3	7	3.1	121	6.6	6.3	7	3.1	121	6.6	6.3	7	3.1
122	6.7	6.4	6	3.2	122	6.7	6.4	6	3.2	122	6.7	6.4	6	3.2
123	6.8	6.5	5	3.3	123	6.8	6.5	5	3.3	123	6.8	6.5	5	3.3
124	6.9	6.6	4	3.4	124	6.9	6.6	4	3.4	124	6.9	6.6	4	3.4
125	7.0	6.7	3	3.5	125	7.0	6.7	3	3.5	125	7.0	6.7	3	3.5
126	7.1	6.8	2	3.6	126	7.1	6.8	2	3.6	126	7.1	6.8	2	3.6
127	7.2	6.9	1	3.7	127	7.2	6.9	1	3.7	127	7.2	6.9	1	3.7
128	7.3	7.0	0	3.8	128	7.3	7.0	0	3.8	128	7.3	7.0	0	3.8
129	7.4	7.1	-1	3.9	129	7.4	7.1	-1	3.9	129	7.4	7.1	-1	3.9
130	7.5	7.2	-2	4.0	130	7.5	7.2	-2	4.0	130	7.5	7.2	-2	4.0
131	7.6	7.3	-3	4.1	131	7.6	7.3	-3	4.1	131	7.6	7.3	-3	4.1
132	7.7	7.4	-4	4.2	132	7.7	7.4	-4	4.2	132	7.7	7.4	-4	4.2
133	7.8	7.5	-5	4.3	133	7.8	7.5	-5	4.3	133	7.8	7.5	-5	4.3
134	7.9	7.6	-6	4.4	134	7.9	7.6	-6	4.4	134	7.9	7.6	-6	4.4
135	8.0	7.7	-7	4.5	135	8.0	7.7	-7	4.5	135	8.0	7.7	-7	4.5
136	8.1	7.8	-8	4.6	136	8.1	7.8	-8	4.6	136	8.1	7.8	-8	4.6
137	8.2	7.9	-9	4.7	137	8.2	7.9	-9	4.7	137	8.2	7.9	-9	4.7
138	8.3	8.0	-10	4.8	138	8.3	8.0	-10	4.8	138	8.3	8.0	-10	4.8
139	8.4	8.1	-11	4.9	139	8.4	8.1	-11	4.9	139	8.4	8.1	-11	4.9
140	8.5	8.2	-12	5.0	140	8.5	8.2	-12	5.0	140	8.5	8.2	-12	5.0
141	8.6	8.3	-13	5.1	141	8.6	8.3	-13	5.1	141	8.6	8.3	-13	5.1
142	8.7	8.4	-14	5.2	142	8.7	8.4	-14	5.2	142	8.7	8.4	-14	5.2
143	8.8	8.5	-15	5.3	143	8.8	8.5	-15	5.3	143	8.8	8.5	-15	5.3
144	8.9	8.6	-16	5.4	144	8.9	8.6	-16	5.4	144	8.9	8.6	-16	5.4
145	9.0	8.7	-17	5.5	145	9.0	8.7	-17	5.5	145	9.0	8.7	-17	5.5
146	9.1	8.8	-18	5.6	146	9.1	8.8	-18	5.6	146	9.1	8.8	-18	5.6
147	9.2	8.9	-19	5.7	147	9.2	8.9	-19	5.7	147	9.2	8.9	-19	5.7
148	9.3	9.0	-20	5.8	148	9.3	9.0	-20	5.8	148	9.3	9.0	-20	5.8
149	9.4	9.1	-21	5.9	149	9.4	9.1	-21	5.9	149	9.4	9.1	-21	5.9
150	9.5	9.2	-22	6.0	150	9.5	9.2	-22	6.0	150	9.5	9.2	-22	6.0
151	9.6	9.3	-23	6.1	151	9.6	9.3	-23	6.1	151	9.6	9.3	-23	6.1
152	9.7	9.4	-24	6.2	152	9.7	9.4	-24	6.2	152	9.7	9.4	-24	6.2
153	9.8	9.5	-25	6.3	153	9.8	9.5	-25	6.3	153	9.8	9.5	-25	6.3
154	9.9	9.6	-26	6.4	154	9.9	9.6	-26	6.4	154	9.9	9.6	-26	6.4
155	10.0	9.7	-27	6.5	155	10.0	9.7	-27	6.5	155	10.0	9.7	-27	6.5
156	10.1	9.8	-28	6.6	156	10.1	9.8	-28	6.6	156	10.1	9.8	-28	6.6
157	10.2	9.9	-29	6.7	157	10.2	9.9	-29	6.7	157	10.2	9.9	-29	6.7
158	10.3	10.0	-30	6.8	158	10.3	10.0	-30	6.8	158	10.3	10.0	-30	6.8
159	10.4	10.1	-31	6.9	159	10.4	10.1	-31	6.9	159	10.4	10.1	-31	6.9
160	10.5	10.2	-32	7.0	160	10.5	10.2	-32	7.0	160	10.5	10.2	-32	7.0
161	10.6	10.3	-33	7.1	161	10.6	10.3	-33	7.1	161	10.6	10.3	-33	7.1
162	10.7	10.4	-34	7.2	162	10.7	10.4	-34	7.2	162	10.7	10.4	-34	7.2
163	10.8	10.5	-35	7.3	163	10.8	10.5	-35	7.3	163	10.8	10.5	-35	7.3
164	10.9	10.6	-36	7.4	164	10.9	10.6	-36	7.4	164	10.9	10.6	-36	7.4
165	11.0	10.7	-37	7.5	165	11.0	10.7	-37	7.5	165	11.0	10.7	-37	7.5
166	11.1	10.8	-38	7.6	166	11.1	10.8	-38	7.6	166	11.1	10.8	-38	7.6
167	11.2	10.9	-39	7.7	167	11.2	10.9	-39	7.7	167	11.2	10.9	-39	7.7
168	11.3	11.0	-40	7.8	168	11.3	11.0	-40	7.8	168	11.3	11.0	-40	7.8
169	11.4	11.1	-41	7.9	169	11.4	11.1	-41	7.9	169	11.4	11.1	-41	7.9
170	11.5	11.2	-42	8.0	170	11.5	11.2	-42	8.0	170	11.5	11.2	-42	8.0
171	11.6	11.3	-43	8.1	171	11.6	11.3	-43	8.1	171	11.6	11.3	-43	8.1
172	11.7	11.4	-44	8.2	172	11.7	11.4	-44	8.2	172	11.7	11.4	-44	8.2
173	11.8	11.5	-45	8.3	173	11.8	11.5	-45	8.3	173	11.8	11.5	-45	8.3
174	11.9	11.6	-46	8.4	174	11.9	11.6	-46	8.4	174	11.9	11.6	-46	8.4
175	12.0	11.7	-47	8.5	175	12.0	11.7	-47	8.5	175	12.0	11.7	-47	8.5
176	12.1	11.8	-48	8.6	176	12.1	11.8	-48	8.6	176	12.1	11.8	-48	8.6
177	12.2	11.9	-49	8.7	177	12.2	11.9	-49	8.7	177	12.2	11.9	-49	8.7
178	12.3	12.0	-50	8.8	178	12.3	12.0	-50	8.8	178	12.3	12.0	-50	8.8
179	12.4	12.1	-51	8.9	179	12.4	12.1	-51	8.9	179	12.4	12.1	-51	8.9
180	12.5	12.2	-52	9.0	180	12.5	12.2	-52	9.0	180	12.5	12.2	-52	9.0
181	12.6	12.3	-53	9.1	181	12.6	12.3	-53	9.1	181	12.6	12.3	-53	9.1
182	12.7	12.4	-54	9.2	182	12.7	12.4	-54	9.2	182	12.7	12.4	-54	9.2
183	12.8	12.5	-55	9.3	183	12.8	12.5	-55	9.3	183	12.8	12.5	-55	9.3
184	12.9	12.6	-56	9.4	184	12.9	12.6	-56	9.4	184	12.9	12.6	-56	9.4
185	13.0	12.7	-57	9.5	185	13.0	12.7	-57	9.5	185	13.0	12.7	-57	9.5
186	13.1	12.8	-58	9.6	186	13.1	12.8	-58	9.6	186	13.1	12.8	-58	9.6
187	13.2	12.9	-59	9.7	187	13.2	12.9	-59	9.7	187	13.2	12.9	-59	9.7
188	13.3	13.0	-60	9.8	188	13.3	13.0	-60	9.8	188	13.3	13.0	-60	9.8
189	13.4	13.1	-61	9.9	189	13.4	13.1	-61	9.9	189	13.4	13.1	-61	9.9
190	13.5	13.2	-62	10.0	190	13.5	13.2	-62	10.0	190	13.5	13.2	-62	10.0
191	13.6	13.3	-63	10.1	191	13.6	13.3	-63	10.1	191	13.6	13.3	-63	10.1
192	13.7	13.4	-64	10.2	192	13.7	13.4	-64	10.2	192	13.7	13.4	-64	10.2
193	13.8	13.5	-65	10.3	193	13.8	13.5	-65	10.3	193	13.8	13.5	-65	10.3
194	13.9	13.6	-66	10.4	194	13.9	13.6	-66	10.4	194	13.9	13.6	-66	10.4
195	14.0	13.7	-67	10.5	195	14.0	13.7	-67	10.5	195	14.0	13.7	-67	10.5
196	14.1	13.8	-68	10.6	196	14.1	13.8	-68	10.6	196	14.1	13.8	-68	10.6
197	14.2	13.9	-69	10.7	197	14.2	13.9	-69	10.7	197	14.2	13.9	-69	10.7
198	14.3	14.0	-70	10.8	198	14.3	14.0	-70	10.8	198	14.3	14.0	-70	10.8
199	14													

[illegible]

an unexpected
 he recipe for th
 is to be let's-go-t
 trigger-or-swoon
 snuggers no
 ss may be due to
 relays the latest
 about needlessly
 with either his
 ks.
 omy corners".
 Front (BBC2)
 ighting expert
 fited a viewer
 to shed more
 All it actually
 are reflector
 er illuminate
 her sitting
 to get one
 de four of

LITE
 sitting on
 Scotch.
 ocker will
 free of
 nder No
 sound:

2) 7.30
 Ventures
 1) 8.50

ives (1)
 Garden

iveness of
 the
 family

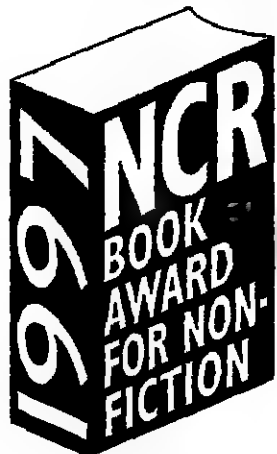
nset
 lary

my
 well
 e.

March 31, the group had 112 billion under management.

Tonight the £25,000 NCR non-fiction book prize will be announced at the Dorchester. Derwent May met the judges

Boiling down the book list



Clive Anderson, the witty barrister who has his own television show, is the chairman of the judges for this year's £25,000 NCR Book Award for Non-Fiction. He has never been a book judge before, he told me, but he has always been a great reader of non-fiction — particularly of politicians' memoirs. "In fact," he said, "I've read so many of those that I could write my own political memoirs without having had a political career."

However, he and his fellow judges have been faced this winter and spring with a daunting variety of books to read. "It's quite a fun problem," he said, "but it's a real one. Novels can vary widely but in some sense they cover the same area, and you can make comparisons between them. But how can you compare books on, say, history and science?"

"On the other hand, that lets you off the hook in one way. You feel freer. If Martin Amis doesn't win a fiction prize, all his supporters feel betrayed and get into a rage. But if you give a history book a prize, how can the scientists complain?"

His fellow judges were the astronomer Dr Heather Couper, the *Times* columnist Nigella Lawson, David Taylor, who is a bookseller at Blackwell's in Oxford, and radio and television broadcaster Sarah Kennedy, who has been the *Variety Club's* "TV Woman of the Year".

They met at the NCR offices in London. Publishers were free to put in as many books as they wished for the prize, and in the end there were 122 books for the judges to get through. The NCR organisers gave them a little help by getting a team of readers to write preliminary reports on all the books for them. But Anderson decided the judges should not eliminate any book too quickly.

"Even if the readers only said that a book was quite good," he said, "I decided we should keep it in and read it properly."

The judges worked their way through the books without too much disagreement in the early stages, brought the number of candidates down to about 25, then reduced it to a long list of 11. After that, the arguments grew hotter.

"Luckily," said Anderson, "judges who had started out by pressing hard for a book sometimes came back saying they had changed their mind, much to the relief of the others — we're glad we haven't got to break it to you..."

Anderson himself looked at lots of reviews of the books, but he did not think very highly of them. "Too often some expert on the subject, probably a rival,



The NCR Book Award judges: from left, chairman Clive Anderson, David Taylor, Sarah Kennedy, Dr Heather Couper (seated) and Nigella Lawson

was asked to review the book. He'd give all his own theories and just have two lines about the book at the end saying 'useful' or 'full of errors'. Not much help."

I asked Nigella Lawson what she thought of Anderson as a chairman. "Very good — he took his duties seriously. But he was a bit bossy," she said. "Very keen to stick to the rules. At the Booker Prize, the publishers are limited in the number of novels they can submit, but the judges can call in others that they particularly admire."

"There was one I very much wanted to call in, but Clive said no, it wasn't permitted under the rules. He's a lawyer, of course."

I put that remark to Anderson. "Oh!" he said. "I didn't see myself as a tough chairman. I was amiable! Iself! Nigella was very, very helpful with her knowledge of the literary world, but she sees herself as a rebellious figure."

I left that dispute there. Nigella Lawson

told me she had had many agreeable surprises reading the books. "Sometimes the subject matter of a book just didn't seem me. But one persisted and sometimes one was quite won over and devoured it."

"I also thought it was very important not to try to second guess the reading public and think what they might like. One just had to trust one's instinct."

David Taylor, the judge from Blackwell's, has written an article for *The Bookeller* about his experiences on the panel. He found it was a neat way of getting out of the decorating at home.

"White spirits, sandpaper and Dulux just do not mix with biographies of Woolf, Beckett and large tomes on Europe," he says. But he too seemed a little scared of

Anderson, if he didn't get on fast enough with the reading. "I've seen the way he interviews people on those television chat shows."

Taylor, like some of the other judges, was sorry that Dava Sobel's *Longitude* was ruled out because she is American, but he got a bit sick of books on Bloomsbury.

"Personally, I think it is only a matter of time before the Roger Fry *Guide to Home Decorating* comes out."

Sarah Kennedy and Heather Couper both came up with passionate

opinions at the meetings, I am told. However, Heather Couper was always going to and from Australia, reading her books on the flight.

According to Anderson, she said: "If you hold the meetings near Heathrow, I

shall be able to stay longer."

Sarah Kennedy said the competition had prompted her to read books she would not normally have looked at. She had enjoyed that and had found herself working amicably with the other judges — so far.

So far — because the final judging session is still to come. This afternoon, Nigella Lawson told me there are 11 books on the shortlist of four (see below) that everyone wanted to see there, and two books that were much fought over.

If one of those latter two has a determined and persuasive advocate, it could still win. The convictions and allegiances come and go in a really fierce judging session.

They will be arguing, she thinks, right up to the last minute, and will go from reaching their verdict straight in to the presentation dinner at the Dorchester.

'It was important not to try to second guess the reading public'

BOOKMAKERS' LATEST ODDS

WILLIAM HILL
Europe, Norman Davies, 5-4 favourite; *Gunpowder Plot*, Antonia Fraser 11-4; *People's Tragedy*, Orlando Figes, 3-1; *Jung*, Frank McLynn, 7-2 outsider.
LADBROKES
Europe, Norman Davies, Event; *People's Tragedy*, Orlando Figes, 3-1; *Gunpowder Plot*, Antonia Fraser, 7-2; *Jung*, Frank McLynn, 4-1.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1988 *Naim in Darkness and Light*. By David Thomson. Hutchinson
1989 *Touching the Void*. By Joe Simpson. Cape
1990 *Citizens*. By Simon Schama. Viking
1991 *The Invisible Woman*. By Claire Tomalin. Viking
1992 *Wild Swans*. By Jung Chang. HarperCollins
1993 *Never Again: Britain 1945-51*. By Peter Hennessy. Cape
1994 *Edward Heath*. By John Campbell. Cape
1995 *Coming Back Brocken*. By Mark Hudson. Cape
1996 *The Railway Man*. By Eric Lomax. Cape



For inquiries about NCR, readers should ring 0171-725 9889

Insight: the full savagery of the Russian Revolution

A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution, 1891-1924. By Orlando Figes (Cape, £25)

ORLANDO FIGES is an historian in his thirties, a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and already the winner of the W.H. Smith Literary Award for 1997 for this book. In an interview, Andrew Marr, the Editor of *The Independent*, called the book "a vast, hugely impressive history", which tells the story of "the greatest political upheaval of modern times".

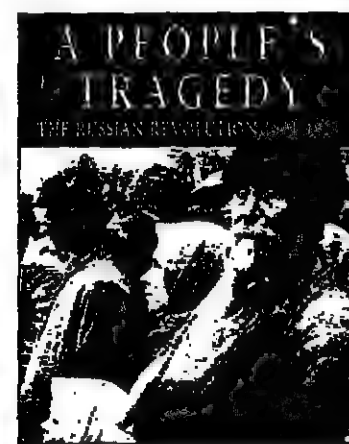
But Marr also found something else in it. It clings, he said, neither to established left-wing or right-wing views of the revolution. "Its most radical departure is that he portrays the Russian people as a main protagonist in their own tragedy: the creators of anti-Jewish pogroms, of massacres, of civil war atrocities: enthusiastic participants in the Red terror, even — as famine stalked Russia — cannibals who ate children."

Figes told Marr that this view had been misinterpreted by some



reviewers as anti-Russian bigotry — but what he was trying to do was to "grapple with the problem of violence, which was central to the revolution".

Norman Stone in *The Sunday Times* thought that Figes had underestimated the influence of Lenin, but added that he doubted "if there is anyone in the world who



knows the revolution as well as he does". Curtis Keeble remarked in *The Daily Telegraph* that Figes "pays a well-deserved tribute to his mother, the novelist Eva Figes, for showing him how to practise the art of narrative."

"She did a good job. Figes succeeds in holding the reader's attention throughout his chronicle."

Carl Gustav Jung: A Biography. By Frank McLynn (Bantam, £25)

FRANK MC LYNN is an experienced biographer who has already written books on, among others, H.M. Stanley, Sir Richard Burton and Fitzroy Maclean. His new biography of Jung plunged him into more dangerous territory, since few wars are more viciously fought than those between the psychoanalysts.

In the *Financial Times*, J.D.F. Jones said it was not necessary to be a "Jungian" or to have gone through analysis to write a biography of "this towering figure of our time". Nevertheless, "Jung can only be appreciated, for better or worse, after long experience, consideration and evaluation of his ideas. I deliberately did not seek expert advice or academic readings," McLynn professes. Why not? Jones especially disliked what he called "the incessant denigration of Jung" in this biography.

Stuart Sutherland wrote in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* that the book "tells you all you need to know about Jung and a good deal more. It is scholarly but it is scholarship gone mad."



However, Roy Porter in *The Times* praised this "no-nonsense biography". "As an outsider free from the petty jealousies of psychopolitics," he said, "McLynn is just the man for the job. Here is



Jung,warts and all, a self-centred grandiose prima donna."

So this book proves to be the most controversial of the four NCR prize candidates this year — but, as Porter concluded in his review: "It may prove our best-rounded portrait of Jung until the Jung clan unburden the secrets in his private papers."

Grisly plot: galloping storytelling that shames our history

The Gunpowder Plot: Terror and Faith in 1605. By Antonia Fraser (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20)

LADY ANTONIA FRASER has written many books about 16th and 17th-century history, but perhaps none has involved her so emotionally as this study of the Gunpowder Plot.

She told Valerie Grove, who interviewed her for *The Times*, that there was never a guy on Bonfire Night in her family. "There is something deeply unpleasant about it, don't you think? Catholic families don't burn guys if they know anything about November 5. If burning books leads to burning human beings, what does burning effigies lead to?"

Her researches into the extent of the Catholic oppression, and the persecution of priests, in the early 17th century shocked her.

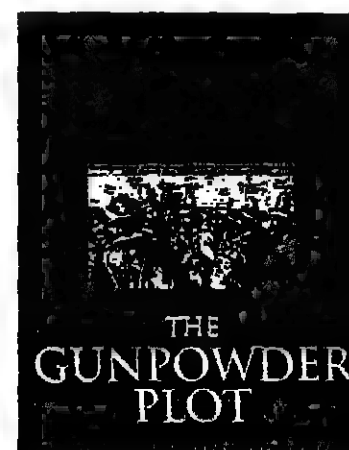
In 1613 a Bill was introduced into the House of Commons to compel Catholics to wear a red hat or parti-coloured stockings like clowns. "It did not succeed, but it reminds us



that we shouldn't go about complacently saying we've always been this wonderfully tolerant country."

Her book was widely praised by historians for its thoroughness and objectivity about Fawkes and his fellow-plotters. It has been equally praised for its galloping storytelling.

Frank McLynn in *The Irish Times* called it "an admirably balanced, nuanced and lucid piece of writing."



Julie Wheelwright in *Scotland on Sunday* said: "Fraser has done a more than credible job in untangling the myriad complexities of loyalties and political factions in early 17th-century England."

"That the tradition of Bonfire Night, complete with effigies of the poor deluded Guy, shows no signs of abating is reason alone for welcoming *The Gunpowder Plot*."

A must read: history of Europe from the Greeks to Gorbachev

Europe: A History. By Norman Davies (Oxford University Press, £25)

NOT EVERY book gets a leading article devoted to it in *The Times*, but this one did. The leader writer called it "one of those great books for whom the critics' must read verdict should be truly heeded."

He wrote that "the concept of Europe is the cause of almost constant political wrangling and grief" and that Norman Davies' "gripping account of the Continent from pre-history to modernity deserves the greatest possible readership among all who would take part in that debate."

There was general agreement about this among the critics. In *The Guardian*, Professor Norman Stone wrote cheerfully: "The first and most obvious virtue of Norman Davies' new book is that it reads like the old Arthur Mee *Children's Encyclopaedia*. It is Europe from the Greeks to Gorbachev, and is very long — so long that my proof copy fell apart. If anything, this made reading it even easier."



"Through the jumbled pages of the latter half, I could supply Europe with a cascade of interesting information, presented without condescension and with charm, which will be usable at any level of inquiry. This book is an astonishing piece of work."

In *The Sunday Telegraph*, Noel Malcolm made the point that a passionate thesis runs through the



book — that "we cannot understand Europe unless we look just as much at Eastern Europe as we do at the more familiar West."

An interview with Davies by Valerie Grove in *The Times* revealed that he has practised what he preaches. He has had two Polish wives and has written two histories of Poland that have made him a hero in that country.

NCR chairman Malcolm Roberts

Support for quality in the community



■ OPERA

How will the Royal Opera House cope with the crisis of Genista McIntosh's resignation?



■ MUSICALS 1

From the lurching deck, and occasionally lurching dialogue of the disaster show *Titanic*...

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSICALS 2

...to the scintillating Ellington numbers of *Play On!*: Broadway goes overboard for tunes



■ RISING STAR

So what's a bright young woman doing playing jazz? Nikki Yeoh tells her story

The opera and theatre worlds were startled yesterday when two of London's leading figures unexpectedly quit their jobs



Happier times? Lord Chadlington, chairman of the Royal Opera House, with Genista McIntosh — who resigned yesterday as the ROH's chief executive — outside Covent Garden last month

Turmoil at the Opera House

Genista McIntosh's shock resignation is symptomatic of a much deeper malaise at Covent Garden, says Rodney Milnes

The graceless, singularly ill-worded press release announcing that Genista McIntosh is to "leave" her post as chief executive of the Royal Opera House — not resign — in the immediate future "due to ill-health" bears all the signs of panic-stricken haste. And the simultaneous announcement that Mary Allen, currently Secretary General of the Arts Council of England, has been appointed to succeed her is equally graceless, and perhaps premature. If a job falls vacant, is it not customary to ask around a bit, if not actually advertise the post, especially one with so high a public profile in charge of an organisation in receipt of huge sums of public money? That the ROH board, not a body to have inspired much confidence over recent years, should simply appoint someone in five minutes, off its own bat, does seem high-handed.

This could not have happened at a worse time for Covent Garden. Quite apart from the redevelopment and the millions involved, and the ROH's fraught, frankly patched-together two years on the road which is about to start, there is the current dispute with the technicians' union Bectu over touring allowances during closure. With staff morale at an all-time low, that shows every sign of escalating.

The mood in the House yesterday was one of stunned shock. And that was not alleviated by an unfortunate slip of the tongue by the chairman, Lord Chadlington, when he told a staff meeting he was sad that McIntosh "had been forced to leave". The music director Bernard Haitink — the one towering artistic force at the ROH who could provide a rallying point for demoralised troops, or at least ask

some pertinent questions — was elsewhere.

With everyone's lips tightly buttoned, one can only speculate. McIntosh, who only started in January, is a woman with ideas and ideals, as her interview on this page last month suggested. She had a vision of what the role of the ROH should be in the 21st century, as a national flagship of excellence, yet one with some sort of social relevance.

If one were to depict the ROH as in the grip of a *Magic Flute*-style battle between forces of light and forces of darkness, then she led the light, challenging those who would frankly prefer the House to remain what it has perforce become over the last decade: a playground for the privileged, paid for by the taxpayer. The whole imbroglio is all the odder in that it is so out of step with the spirit of the time. All around us a New Age dawns, but not in Bow Street.

In that context the appointment of Mary Allen, however great her reputation as a shrewd and level-headed administrator, cannot inspire great confidence in ROH staff. She comes hot from a body responsible for so many of the House's current woes. Talk about poachers and gamekeepers. Nor can anyone be entirely confident that Chadlington will be any more successful at running the ROH than he was in drumming up support for the Conservatives during the election. The fact that he paid tribute to Lord Gowrie in the press release yesterday struck another discordant note. Talk about yesterday's men.

Perhaps one should have paid more attention to earlier warning signs. There is no doubt that

Chadlington, who gives a clever but plainly misleading impression of being a Wodehousian silly ass, had every intention of being a hands-on chairman. He has organised himself an office in the building, and he virtually took over last month's press conference at which the first closure-period plans were announced.

There has been talk about interference from board members in day-to-day administration. Maybe the building simply wasn't big enough for the two of them, and at the time of her appointment some friends of McIntosh expressed surprise at her believing she could work with her chairman.

There is plainly more to this than meets the eye. (Friends in the theatre world might like to be assured that McIntosh is in robust health.) But certain facts are pretty well beyond dispute. For all its artistic achievements — near-miraculous in the circumstances — the ROH has not been well run at board level over the last decade: just look at the current mess. And for Gowrie to have pointed this out recently takes the biscuit for sheer cheek. The Arts Council, reduced to the status of a Treasury poodle, has long lost the confidence of its constituency. Now we see ACE persons, in the figures of Chadlington and Allen, mounting what looks very much like a coup in Bow Street.

It might be asking too much to suggest that nice Chris Smith should ride in on a white charger, throw the whole lot of them out, and appoint a temporary caretaker management. But worse things could happen — ie, they could go on muddling through as before. The very future of a great national institution is at stake.

Daldry will be missed

The Royal Court announced yesterday that Stephen Daldry is to stand down as its artistic director. *Benedict Nightingale* writes. The news will cause widespread consternation. At the age of 37, he is regarded as one of the most gifted figures in British theatre and was strongly tipped for the National's top job last year.

After putting the little Gate Theatre on the map with a series of fine revivals, he was appointed Court supremo in 1991 and has restored its artistic and financial fortunes. He has discovered many new young dramatists, among them Jez Butterworth, Joe Penhall and Martin McDonagh. What critics have described as a Theatre of Urban Ennui, marked by its abrasive portraits of city life, has emerged at the Court and its tiny Theatre Upstairs. Not since the Osborne era in the late 1960s has there been such a buzz at the theatre.

Daldry also won £16 million from the lottery, and substantial sums from other sources, for an ambitious plan to rebuild the Court. As soon as work started last year, he shifted operations to the West End, presenting a striking season of "Court classics" at the Duke of York's as well as creating two auditoria in the Ambassadors and giving the world premiere of Pinter's *Ashes to Ashes* in one of them.

It will be hard to find a leader of comparable ability. The plan is that the new artistic director should formally take over this autumn, but work alongside Daldry until the Court returns to Sloane Square late next year.

Temperamental restlessness probably explains Daldry's departure. It is no secret that he has received offers from Hollywood and wants to try his hand at films.

Battered on Broadway

NEW YORK THEATRE:
Benedict Nightingale rounds up the musicals vying for a Tony

Once again it is time to thank the theatrical gods that no British awards dominate and distort the West End anything like as drastically as the Tonies do the Broadway season. Just before May Day, the last moment you can qualify for a nomination, a great, gaudy phalanx of barely-ready musicals comes banging into New York, lighting up long-dark theatres and clamouring for the ballots that will bring them publicity and a chance of recouping their preposterous costs.

It is a lunatic business, and this year we British have been unusually active in the Broadway asylum. Our Michael Blakemore directed the pimp-and-groove show *The Life*, which has received a best-musical nomination. Our Robin Phillips staged *Jekyll and Hyde*, which hasn't. *Titanic*, which won a nomination, was directed

by our Richard Jones and, of course, involves our very own boat. Only *Kander and Ebb's Steel Pier* (another finalist) and an odd collaboration between Duke Ellington and Shakespeare called *Play On!* (another reject) are under American command.

Which will turn out to be the winner on June 1? Don't expect a clear answer from my bruised eardrums and battered eyeballs, which are still recovering from what feels like a capsule nightmare in which Times Square hookers, marathon dancers and characters from *Twelfth Night* are chased around a doomed ship by a snarling Victorian with a club.

All I can report is that the shows I saw ranged from quite good through passable to bad. No, the last category does not include *Titanic* (Lunt-Fontanne), even though the title courts disaster and the set nearly achieved it at some previews by the perverse rule of refusing to sink Jones's staging, clearly indebted to Peter Stein's production of *The Hairy Ape*, creates an upstairs-downstairs feel by cutting horizontal slits, bridge to boiler-room, into a lowering ship. As these begin to tilt there are memorable moments, too: the sudden silence in a complacent first-class lounge as a drinks trolley rolls

by itself across the floor; the instantly repressed shock on the face of Allan Corcoran's steward as someone whispers the real news into his ear.

Yet I spent some of the first half imploring that iceberg to get busy. A becalmed story needed a jolt. Moreover, the characters — tradesman and social-climbing wife, young lovers, John Jacob Astor and his latest hot property, the ship's dangerously pushy owner — are too thinly realised for us to care much about their fates. But Peter Stone's book and Maury Yeston's big-hearted music do leave us feeling both the magnificent hubris of 19th-century technological endeavour, and the nobility of those British upper lips as they stiffened in readiness for their watery graves.

But *Jekyll and Hyde* (Plymouth) does us no service at all. In Leslie Bricusse's reworking of Stevenson, the doctor is a pony-tailed idealist whose supposedly logical hope is to "integrate mind and emotion", "separate the functional from the dysfunctional" and somehow save his father, who lies naked and silently twitching in a madhouse. What follows is a mixture of earnest psychobabble and sentimental nonsense. One sci-fi cocktail, and the pony tail has swung across the head and over the face of Robert Cuccioli's chivalric Jekyll, changing him into Cuccioli's simian Hyde.

It is the best performance by a hunk of hair I've seen, but what follows lost me. No one tries to check Hyde as he serially murders "Rupert the 14th Bishop of Basingstoke" and the other all-English fogies and fops who have sneered at Jekyll's research. It is left to the good doctor to wedlock Frank Wildhorn's tunes have their moments, but Bricusse's lyrics don't. I cannot confirm a friend's claim that the chorus of Cockneys sang "to kill someone outside St Paul's takes an awful lot of balls", but I certainly heard "murder, murder, it's a nightmare, murder, murder, it's a right scare, murder, murder, it's a cursed thing, murder, murder, it's the worst thing."

You expect Broadway to provide escapism fun; yet the odd thing is that the new batch of musicals close with mass drownings, suicide and, in two,



That sinking feeling on board *Titanic*: but if the storyline is becalmed, there are at least some memorable moments

other cases, emotional disaster. Still, both *Steel Pier* and *The Life* offer politically correct role models in the form of women who end up deserting male fiefdoms and stalking chin-up to the sunset.

The Life (Barrymore) is the better, though you may feel the

suggesting that pimping follows the laws and logic of the American marketplace; but it is a bold try.

Steel Pier (Richard Rodgers) has the perky, hummable tunes you would expect from the team that created *Cabaret* and *Chicago*; but Kander and Ebb's portrait of a dance marathon in the Depression lacks the same bite. Too little is made of the moments in which "sponsors" throw money at impoverished hoofers trying to keep from collapsing after 100, 200, 500 hours on their feet. Indeed, the very brilliance of Susan Stroman's choreography becomes counter-productive. Surely there should be less whirling and twisting and more slumping and tottering as cramp and narcolepsy take their toll.

Moreover, the story at the centre is a dotty blend of *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* and *Here Comes Mr Jordan*. Who is the cheerful, solid-looking chap who takes the floor with the dancer whose nasty, voracious husband won't let her quit? Why, the ghost of a crashed pilot on furlough from Heaven. By the time the chorus did a tap-number on the wings of a biplane, I had, I fear, given up believing in *Steel Pier*.

Not so with *Play On!* (Brooks Atkinson), which brings black Southern Vi to

the Cotton Club and forces her to woo Lady Liv on behalf of a moony, song-writing Duke. Sound familiar? True, *Twelfth Night* didn't end with Olivia marrying Malvolio, as happens after some cursory fun. But I think the Bard, who had soul and a capacity for joy,

wouldn't have felt too badly betrayed by Cheryl West's book, let alone Ellington's tunes and a cast that includes Cheryl Freeman, Tonya Pinkins and Andre de Shields. And if music be I Got It Bad and That Ain't Good — well, play on.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament: NIKKI YEOH

Age: 23.
Profession: Islington born-and-bred jazz composer/pianist, already dubbed "the most exciting British jazz musician of her generation" and provoking comparisons to McCoy Tyner.

What's an intelligent young woman doing playing jazz? "I had saxophone lessons from Don Rendell and he sent me to the library and told me to look for anything by Miles Davis or John Coltrane. That was it, although I decided the piano felt more natural for me."

Work in progress: Her latest composition, *Speech Mixture*, was premiered at the Bath Festival last month. Composed for a 12-piece band and video projection, the work also uses harmonisation of the spoken word in six different languages translations of one of her poems.

How did she get this far? "I used to go to jam sessions at London's Jazz Cafe. Courtney Pine came down one day, heard me play and asked for my number."

Future plans: "I'm ready to record an album, which I have delayed. Being recognised as a composer has given me the confidence to record my own stuff."

Long-term ambition: "Oh, to keep improving as a band leader, a composer and a pianist. Anyone who takes their craft seriously wants to be the best."

NIGEL WILLIAMSON



WANT TO SEE

WE'RE IN YOUR CORNER.

THE FUTURE OF MONEY

■ FILM

Fighting fit after heart surgery Edward Woodward leads his entire family in a new TV project



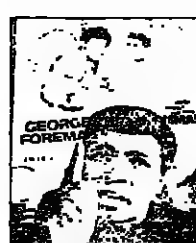
■ MUSIC 1

Valery Gergiev steers his Kirov Opera into pastures new, and that includes Wagner

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC 2

A Stockhausen classic is included in the London Sinfonietta's German show



■ TOMORROW

Does Muhammad Ali's life make compelling cinema? Read Geoff Brown on the new films

Can't see the fees for the Woodwards

Why are top TV star Edward and his family doing a costume swashbuckler for nothing? Victoria McKee reports

Edward Woodward is fighting fit after undergoing a triple bypass eight months ago. Two stone lighter, the 67-year-old actor is hearty enough to ride a horse through the portico of a stately home, scattering enemies with his sword as he gallops by, and to duel his way up and down a marble staircase.

Such derring-do is de rigueur for his latest role in his son Peter's saga about the Angelo dynasty of "fightmasters" in a period drama pilot that could lead, the Woodward acting dynasty hopes, to a television series.

The Angelos, who ran an "Academy of Arms" in the 18th century in what is now London's Soho, came to Britain from Italy to teach swordplay, riding and shooting to gentlemen. Dominic Angelo, played by Edward Woodward, had a son called Harry (played by Peter), "who became a great friend of the Prince Regent and of David Garrick and kept the family business going into the 19th century", Peter says, during a break from two weeks' filming at the National Trust's Phillips House near Salisbury, which economically serves as both the arms academy and the court of King George III.

Originally to be called *The Fightmaster*, the title of the pilot episode, the series has now been tentatively titled *House of Angelo*, a name which, some cast members feel, sounds unfortunately like that of a hairdressing salon. It was chosen to appeal to American sensibilities, since that is where British costume dramas can really make a killing. With Edward still popular in America after the hit television series *The Equalizer*, that was an important consideration. But the name could still change, as could the screening dates — currently set for late August/early September, initially on BSkyB, then on the BBC.

"I can't tell you what a fight it was even to try to get this put on," says Edward, puffing slightly after

his efforts and putting on a pair of spectacles that make him look, in shoulder-length grey wig, knee breeches, embroidered waistcoat and frock coat, rather like Benjamin Franklin. "It was like trying to invent the lightbulb."

The film is crammed with Woodwards. As well as Peter, 38, the main creative force behind the project, Edward's two other children from his first marriage to the actress Venetia Barratt — Tim, 44, and Sarah, 34 — are involved, and his 14-year-old daughter Emily, from his present marriage to actress Michele Dotrice (the only immediate family member without a role, "although I hope she'll have one if it goes to series"), has had a walk-on part.

Peter's wife Anne-Marie Marriott and Sarah's partner Patrick Toomey have roles, as do good friends Julian Glover and his wife Isla Blair. They play Sir Robert Willoughby and the actress Peg Wallington, who has to ride a horse up the stairs sidesaddle and also has some action scenes with a sword. They hope to bring their actor son Jamie into the series eventually, too.

"Even the electricians are all from the same family," Peter says. The director is Jim Goddard, with whom Edward also worked on *Callan*, the series that made him famous 30 years ago.

It's a closely knit group, with everyone, slightly protective of Edward. "We had a fully costumed and made-up stunt double standing by for all Edward's action scenes," says Peter. "But we never needed him."

The other advantage of a cast composed primarily of family and friends is that it is willing to work for low wages, a vital advantage when funding was so hard to come by. "The Woodwards have deferred all fees and are not taking anything until the production breaks even," says Peter. "And all the principal artists — our mates — have accepted a minimum rate."

We believe very strongly in what we're doing, but we also believe that this is a terrible way to have to go about things. If we didn't have these resources to call on it wouldn't be made, so there must be a lot of wonderful potential projects around which aren't being made."

"Nobody's committing in television to do the medium he calls 'the greatest form of entertainment in the world,' and in which he has chosen to spend the lion's share of his 50-year career. They all want to see a pilot first. With 'in-house' productions you knew where the money was coming from, and where profits would be made. Now there are so many little independent companies, like ours, who have to fight for everything."

Luckily the Woodwards are skilled fighters, as they deftly demonstrate with sword, dagger and musket. They don't give up easily. Peter sent scores of scripts out to different companies, mainly in North America, together with a glossy brochure about the Angelo and Woodward dynasties. Finally Atlantis, a Canadian distribution agency, bit — but then withdrew. So New Zealand's Dop Reynolds, who had championed the project,

left Atlantis to become a third musketeer with Peter and Edward, and Atlantis later came back on board with a third of the funds for the £1 million pilot. A third is being provided by the Woodwards themselves — "I've put all my savings into this," Peter says — and a third by the BBC and Sky together. In what the Woodwards believe is the first joint venture of the terrestrial and satellite networks. "We haven't even met anyone from the BBC yet. Nobody seems to know we're doing this, although we're doing this with their money," Edward says.

With Reynolds shaving his beard and shaking off his accent to play George III, it's a case of all for one and one for all in this swashbuckling saga "set in an age," Peter says, "when revolution was in the air and there was a change from men in rights and wigs to those in boots and breeches."

Peter, who intends to continue making his living "by the pen and the sword", is an actor, playwright and fightmaster who has choreographed fights for the Royal Shakespeare Company and English National Opera. "He used to swing a sword with me from the time he was two years old," Edward says proudly.

Peter also acts as "armourer" on the production, locking the Brown Besses and other 18th-century muskets away carefully after each day's action. He realised the dramatic potential of the Angelo family of fightmasters when reading a copy of Dominic Angelo's 18th-century fight manual, *The School of Arms*, at the British Museum.



(From left) Tim, Sarah, Edward and Peter Woodward on set for their television pilot, *The Fightmaster*

OPERA: John Allison acclaims the Kirov Opera's production of Parsifal

A little late, Russia learns to love Wagner

Of all Russian paradoxes, the Kirov Opera of St Petersburg is one of the most remarkable. It represents the best cultural traditions of the old pre- and post-revolutionary order, but is also among the few institutions to have made something positive of the "new" Russia.

While the rest of the country fumbles ever more uncertainly, there is an energy about the Kirov Opera, a feeling that anything is possible. Indeed, it seems to be another piece of history was made on Sunday when Wagner's *Parsifal* was performed for the first time in Russia in almost 80 years.

This energy is all being generated by Valery Gergiev who, as chief of the Mariinsky Theatre, now controls both ballet and opera there. He has recently tightened up working practices, and by his own admission is stricter than ever with the artists. He has to be. They are the company's most precious resource.

His lobbying of the Government, even President Yeltsin personally, ensures that the company still receives some state funding, but it covers less than 20 per cent of total needs and at best is unreliable. In a country where the President can go on television at Easter and wish the nation a happy Christmas, nothing can be guaranteed. Russian sponsors are beginning to come forward, but Gergiev is clear: "The best budget is people, so I have to keep them here."

Gergiev is also broadening the work of the theatre as

never before. Works by Verdi, Strauss, Mozart and Bizet have all made a comeback in their original languages. But Gergiev's biggest aim has been to reintroduce Wagner, and with *Parsifal* now achieved, he plans *Der fliegende Holländer* next year. Russia once had a great Wagner tradition, but anti-German sentiment after the Second World War and the strictures of Stalin's musical thought-police combined to leave a big, Wagner-shaped hole in the repertoire.

This new *Parsifal* was almost a Russian premiere: after the embargo on the opera being given outside "sacred" Bayreuth was lifted in 1913, *Parsifal* was produced at St Petersburg's privately-run Theatre of Musical Drama. But it never reached one of the country's major stages. Then came the revolution, and the opera's religious, or pseudo-religious, subject matter was too much for the communists. During the Soviet era a production was never even mooted.

The opening night was thus an important event in the

theatre's history, but what made it so memorable was the burning intensity of the orchestral playing under Gergiev. As his Covent Garden *Lohengrin* proved, this conductor has a special affinity for Wagner, and here he caught the score's ecstatic beauty and all the pain too.

Each act was carefully paced, and the performance swept along compellingly. The Kirov Orchestra's rich strings and blazing brass sounded thrilling. This was an idiomatic, world-class account in a theatre without a living Wagner tradition.

Russianness was more strongly revealed in sets by the late Yevgeny Lysy, originally designed for a *Lohengrin* that didn't happen, but evoking a beautiful, generalised medievalism that would do for any mystical opera. The producer was Tony Palmer, not so fondly remembered for turning a Scottish Opera *Turandot* into a Puccini family saga. But here he spared us the horrors of Fauriel Wagner. In spite of clumsy ideas like processions

through the auditorium and copious amounts of "atmospheric" dry ice, the production summoned up most of the opera's magic and the cast was strongly directed.

Indeed, Gurnemanz was not his usual, boring self, but a character with real aura, movingly sung by Gennady Bezzubkov. Valeria Sienkina, an astonishingly young Kundry, had all the wild sensuality required. Alexey Steblianko was an imposing, dark-toned Parsifal, and Nikolay Putilin a vivid Klingsor. The chorus was on splendid form, and all the smaller roles were cast astonishingly well, from strength that must be the envy of every other opera house.

The previous evening's *Ruslan and Lyudmila* explained why, since one of the *Parsifal* Flowermaiden's, Anna Netrebko, had given an unforgettable performance as Lyudmila. Netrebko, whose perfectly focused soprano is matched by the looks of a fairy-tale princess, was an ideal heroine, but she was not the only outstanding singer in a cast that included Valentina Tsidipova (Gorislava) and Larissa Diadkova (Ratmir). Glinka's opera is one of the company's showpieces, brought to spirited life by Gergiev's conducting, storybook designs and Fokine's choreography. With a fully integrated ballet, it is an opera to which only the Kirov can do full justice, and one which shows the "traditional" side of Gergiev's vision.

ture of Bernd Alois Zimmermann's cantata *Omnia Tempus Habent*. In 1957, when this cantata was written, Zimmermann was ploughing an individual furrow. Yet to come was his distinctive "collage" style, resulting in such masterpieces as *Die Soldaten* and the trumpet concerto *Nobody Knows De Trouble I See*.

It was a trumpet piece — York Höller's *Fanal* — that we heard immediately after. The image of a flame, leaping high or slowly dying, lies behind the work, and John Wallace's account was a brilliant pyrotechnical display. The music of Höller — and this work in particular — deserves to be heard much more often.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Wall bar exercises

CONCERT
London Sinfonietta/
Zander
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Post War. Post Wall is the London Sinfonietta's two-part exploration of a half-century of German music. The postwar upheaval began, as the British composer Julian Anderson notes in an illuminating programme essay, with a head-on collision between the hardline serialists and the conservatives.

Saturday's concert began with a representative and hugely influential work from the early 1950s: Stockhausen's *Kontropunkte*. If this kind of score no longer seems "difficult", it is partly because Stockhausen's lead has been followed by so many composers of the modern era. But much credit is due to the accomplished performances of ensembles like the Sinfonietta who, here under the direction

of Hans Zander, delivered the piece with wonderfully controlled delicacy. Rarely have the fragmentary utterances cohered so seamlessly and with such a persuasive sense of flow, providing a subtle backdrop for the brilliantly executed solo statements of pianist John Constable.

Inhabiting a more specific dreamworld, Wilhelm Killmayer's *Sinfonia 2: Ricordanze* evoked the *Memories of the Sublime* with a superbly evocative, and extraordinarily economical, sound palette.

Zander's own *Furin No Kyo*, though written as recently as 1989, suggested a throwback to a less profitable mode of fragmentation. The text, deconstructed in four languages with impressive equanimity by Julie Moffat, is broken down into somewhat tiresome syllabic ejaculations — though apparently with ironic, occasionally humorous intent.

Perverse word-setting, equally skilfully delivered by Moffat, was similarly a fea-

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

THE TIMES'S RAIL OFFER FROM £5 TO £20 RETURN

- Choose from more than 100 destinations
- Up to 72% off normal Virgin rail fares
- Save £20 from London to Glasgow*
- Travel from June 8 to September 27**
- Stay a day, a week, or a month
- Children under five go FREE



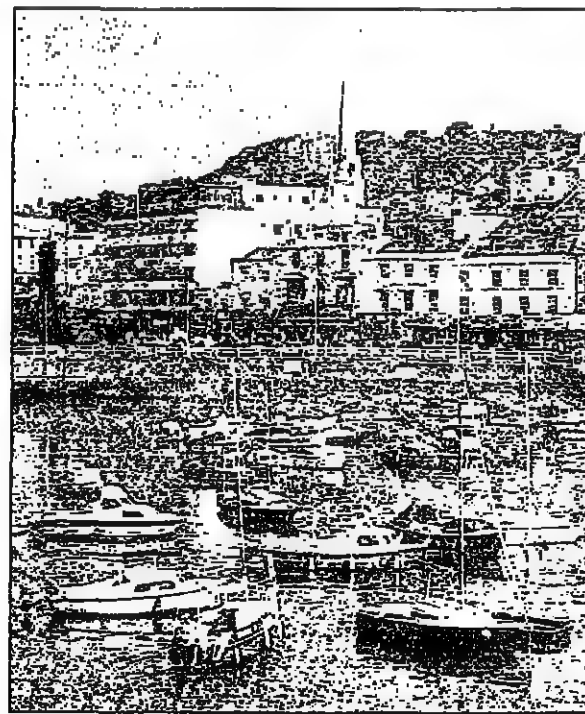
Get out and about in Britain on Virgin Trains this summer from as little as £5 return with our exclusive offer. Simply collect 10 tokens from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and you can travel to any one of more than 100 destinations throughout Britain for between £5 and £20 return. Children under five travel free. The offer is valid until September 27, 1997 for up to one month's travel.

Booking could not be simpler with Virgin Trains' new easy booking system which offers free expert advice to help you plan your journey. All booking information will be sent to you in your fulfilment guide. Please do not call Virgin Trains or make inquiries at rail stations until you receive this information.

HOW THE OFFER WORKS

The Virgin Trains network (a map was published in Monday's *Times*) is divided into four zones. A return journey within a particular zone costs £5 per person provided your entire journey is within the same zone. For every zone you travel into you pay an extra £5.

*Saving compared to 7-day Apex return of £40. **Not available during the bank holiday, August 23-25, 1997. No travel permitted until 10am and between 3pm-6pm Mon-Fri from London Euston. No travel until 10am from Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton or intermediate stations to London Euston.



HOW TO APPLY

Collect 10 differently numbered tokens — eight from *The Times* and two from *The Sunday Times*. Applications must be received by first post on June 15, 1997. Only one application per return ticket per reader will be allowed. Unaccompanied children cannot take advantage of this offer. Full terms and conditions will appear again in *The Sunday Times* on Sunday. An application form will appear in Saturday's *Times*.



Crown Court judge erred over jurors' alleged contempt

Regina v Schot
Regina v Barclay
Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Forbes and Mr Justice Keene

Judgment May 12
The Court of Appeal considered the circumstances in which a juror might be found guilty of contempt of court and the procedure to be followed to deal with such circumstances.

Their Lordships allowed the appeals of Bonnie Belinda Schot and Carol Andrea Barclay against the findings on March 24, 1997 at Knightsbridge Crown Court by Judge Corry that they were in contempt of court, on which they were sentenced to 30 days imprisonment. On March 25 both appellants were granted bail.

Mr John Perry QC, who did not appear below, and Mr Leroy Radford for Schot; Mr Stephen Solley, QC, who did not appear below, and Mr Naylor Siddhu for Barclay, all counsel assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals; Mr David Pinnick, QC, as amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that on February 17, 1997 proceedings began at Knightsbridge Crown Court before Judge Corry in a case in which five defendants were charged with having custody or control of a computer. On February 19 a jury was sworn to try the case. The appellants were two of the jurors.

On March 12 the jury retired and some time later sent a note to the judge which said: "We are

unable to come to any decision owing to some jurors' conscious beliefs. Please advise."

The judge and counsel discussed the note and the jury was brought back and asked to clarify what was meant by "conscious beliefs" by writing a further note through the foreman, who was the appellant Schot.

The further note read: "Some members of the jury cannot bring themselves to make a true judgment due to our beliefs, not religious but personal. At the beginning of the trial, before we took the oath we felt that we could not stand up in the court and stress this fact. We thought that our feelings may change over time. After retiring we have found that we still feel the same and cannot give a true verdict to these defendants."

There was further discussion in the absence of the jury, after which the judge decided to discharge the jury in its entirety. Before doing so he asked the jurors to write down the names of the members to whom the second note related. The jury retired again and returned with the names of the two appellants.

Thereafter, the judge discharged the jury and told the appellants to return to court on March 24 to show cause why they should not be fined for contempt.

Their Lordships sympathised with the judge in having to deal with a very unusual situation, but in their judgment he fell into a sequence of errors.

1 It was doubtful whether it was proper for him to seek written

clarification of the phrase "conscious beliefs". In any event he ought not, on receipt of the second note, to have decided then to discharge the jury.

It seemed to their Lordships, albeit with the advantage of hindsight, that assuming the second note was properly elicited and received, the judge ought to have sought in writing not the names but the numbers of jurors who were having difficulties.

It would then have been possible, with the assistance of further submissions from counsel, to decide what course to take and, in particular, whether it was necessary to discharge the whole jury or whether to give them a majority direction and a direction not amounting to a full Watson direction (see [1988] QB 690) but stressing the importance of the oath taken and reminding them of their obligation to bring in a verdict of guilty if they were sure but otherwise not guilty, and incorporating the matters referred to by Lord Justice Watkins in *R v Guildford Crown Court, Ex parte Sidiya* [1992] 2 QB 683.

Alternatively, once the judge had ascertained that difficulties arose in relation to only two jurors he could have discharged them under section 16(1) of the Juries Act 1974. Had any of these courses been followed it would not have been necessary to abort the trial at that stage.

2 In any event, their Lordships doubted whether the judge should have sought clarification of the first note, and certainly he should not have asked for the names of the

jurors to whom the second note related.

Such requests were in breach of the widely expressed terms of section 8(1) of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, which applied to the court as well as everyone else, and of the long established and recently re-affirmed principle that there was no right in anyone to inquire as to what occurred in the jury room: see, for example, *Andrew Brown* [1997] 1 NSW St Rep 209 and *R v Thompson* [1996] 1 All ER 659.

3 The Juries Act 1974 did not provide for exemption from jury service on the basis of personal conscientious beliefs, nor did the jury summons, the explanatory leaflet or the video shown to all jurors suggest that that might afford exemption.

There was, however, a discretionary power within section 9(4) of the 1974 Act to excuse from jury service, in the light of *Practice Direction (Jury Service: Excusal)* [1988] WLR 1162, the question to be asked when considering an application for excusal was whether the beliefs of the juror prevented him or her from fulfilling properly, responsibly and honestly his or her duties as a member of a jury: see *Sidiya*.

Their Lordships thought it desirable that consideration be given to understanding the juror's own or other information for jurors so as to incorporate some reference to the possibility, referred to in the *Practice Direction* that a person might be excused on ground of conscientious objection to jury service.

4 Although a juror properly empanelled was not accountable for anything said or done by him in discharge of his office (*Halsbury's Laws of England* (4th edn, volume 26, paragraph 653) was not punishable for contempt for returning a perverse verdict (see *Buckley's Case* [1970] 6 State Trials 999) and was not indictable for breaching his oath as a juror (*Hawkins Pleas of the Crown* (1824) 8th edn para 322) it was a different matter where a juror would "wilfully not find for either side".

In such a case a juror was liable as *Buckley's Case* put it (p104). *Hawkins Pleas of the Crown* (Volume 2, p213) stated that it was an offence for a juror to refuse to give a verdict.

Accordingly, contemptuous refusal to reach a verdict because of reluctance to judge another might in appropriate circumstances establish the actus reus of contempt but the mens rea, namely an intention to impede or create a real risk of prejudicing the administration of justice, had also to be proved. The judge was entitled to say: "Both of them in their own way have intentionally disrupted the entire trial by their refusal".

In the light of Barclay's evidence that she did not want to disrupt the court's process or be disrespectful towards the court and Schot's

evidence that she wanted or had tried to reach a verdict, that was a difficult conclusion to sustain in the absence of any finding by the judge that he rejected that evidence.

Also, whether the judge's decision to discharge the entire jury was properly to be regarded as a foreseeable consequence of one or two jurors refusing, if they did, to reach a verdict, so as to establish the necessary mens rea.

Further, the jury's first note sought advice, which was never given. The seeking of advice was not generally likely, it seemed to their Lordships, to support an inference of intention to disrupt a trial.

Unfortunately, none of the authorities or principles referred to by their Lordships was cited or addressed in the course of the hearing before the judge, which created doubt as to the fact that counsel were instructed to represent the appellants only on the morning of the hearing, and in part to the "summary" character, as the judge described it, of the hearing before him.

On any view this was a highly unusual case which required careful consideration by those advising the appellants. Legal representation whereby counsel at court for other purposes was assigned to the appellants on the morning of the hearing before the judge was not, in their Lordships' judgment, adequate or appropriate.

It appeared to have been assumed that it was for the appellants to show cause, by evidence,

that they were not in contempt.

5 There was no urgent and imperative need for the judge to deal with the question of contempt himself, and there was, in any event, a real danger of bias (see *R v Coughlin* [1992] AC 646) in view of what he had said on March 12.

He had expressed surprise, disappointment, bitterness and anger, and said twice, in terms, that the jurors had shown direct contempt; the further proceedings which he contemplated were to show cause "why they ought not to be fined."

Particularly in the light of those comments, the trial judge should either have referred the matter to another senior judge sitting at that or another crown court or to the Attorney-General to apply on motion in accordance with Order 52 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, see, for example, *Balogh v St Albans Crown Court* [1975] 1 QB 73.

On the very rare occasions where the possibility of contempt by a juror arose, it might well be appropriate, where the judge had given no indication of having formed a view or otherwise been influenced by bias, for him to deal with the matter himself, but it would depend on all the circumstances of the particular case.

6 In his conclusions, the judge drew no distinction between the two appellants, although their cases were different.

If Schot's evidence was correct she was not guilty of contempt. The judge made no express finding as

to whether or not he believed her evidence. Accordingly, it would be impossible to uphold his finding of contempt against her.

As to Barclay, the conclusion that she was in contempt, on the basis that she did not like to judge other people and should have disclosed that at an earlier stage and had played no part in the jury's discussions, might well have been sustainable if reached by another judge in other circumstances.

7 The nature of this contempt was never clearly defined in a manner which was essential for a proper inquiry.

For those reasons the findings of contempt would be quashed. However, in any event, their Lordships indicated their view that the sentence of imprisonment was not appropriate.

Trial by jury was one of the cornerstones of our democracy. Its operation in this country was dependent on the participation and co-operation of the public and most members of the public recognised that if summoned for jury service and sworn to be a service jury they had to perform honestly and to the best of their ability.

But it had to be recognised that if members of the public had been summoned for jury service and properly empanelled without making any reasonable objection, they were at risk if they failed to act in accordance with the oath which they had sworn to, "faithfully try the defendant and give a true verdict according to the evidence".

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

Eliminating excess documents

Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Revised procedure)
The Court of Appeal continued to be very concerned about the volume of documentation lodged for the purposes of appeals and applications which was unnecessary and never referred to.

Changes designed to eliminate such practices would be introduced from June 1, 1997.

Following the increase in the number of lord justices there had been some reduction in the time between the lodging and hearing of appeals and new hear by dates would apply.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Mr Justice Hoffmann and Lord Justice Mummery, so stated in the Court of Appeal on May 12.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that under *Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Procedure)* [1995] 1 WLR 1101, core bundles were required where the appeal bundle, excluding the judgment appealed against, would comprise more than 100 pages. In such cases, the obligation on the appellant's solicitor was to lodge the requisite number of sets of the core bundles plus one set of the full trial bundles for reference.

In some instances the core bundles had contained far more

documentation than was necessary for the purposes of determining the appeal. In others, the core bundles did not contain all the necessary documentation and multiple sets of trial bundles were also lodged.

The changes set out below were designed to eliminate those practices and to ensure that the court was provided solely with core bundles which contained only the documents which were relevant and necessary, no more and no less, for determining the appeal or application.

Following the recent increase in the number of lord justices, there had been some reduction in the time lag between the lodging and hearing of appeals. In consequence the hear by dates for most types of appeal could now be brought forward. The new hear by dates were set out below.

Core bundles

1 Paragraphs 2 to 6 below modified Part II of the 1995 *Practice Direction* with effect from the date specified in paragraph 7.

2 In all cases where the appellant or applicant was represented only by core bundles were to be lodged without any trial or other bundles.

3 Core bundles must contain only those documents which the lord justices would need to pre-read or

to which it would be necessary to refer at the hearing, either in support of, or in opposition to, the appeal or application.

4 As soon as the appeal or application had been lodged, the appellant's or applicant's solicitors had to give careful consideration, with the advice of counsel where appropriate, to the necessary content of the core bundles. If there were in any doubt concerning the documents which the other side would need, they had to consult the respondent's solicitors at an early stage.

5 No later than the date stated in the letter from the Civil Appeals Office acknowledging entry of the case in the court's records, the appellant's or applicant's solicitors must lodge with the Civil Appeals Office bundle registry the number of sets of core bundles specified in that letter. No other bundles were to be lodged.

6 One set of the full trial bundles should be brought to the Court of Appeal hearing, but not lodged in advance.

7 Those directions applied to all appeals and applications where the bundles were lodged after June 1, 1997, whether the case was entered in the court's records before or after that date.

8 The obligations of litigants in person in relation to bundles would continue to be governed exclusively by paragraphs 53 to 54 of the 1995 *Practice Direction*.

Hear by dates

9 The new hear by dates set out below would apply to all cases where the appeal or application was lodged before or after June 1, 1997, save for those which, at that date, already had hearing dates arranged.

Matrimonial: child cases, 3 months; financial and other, 6 months.

Crown Office cases: immigration appeals and Crown Office appeals, 3 months; Crown Office appeals, 9 months.

High Court interlocutory: Commercial Court and Official Referees, 11 months; Order 14, 3 months; Order 14A, 9 months; other Queen's Bench, 5 months; Chancery, 9 months.

High Court final: Patents Court, Commercial Court and Official Referees, 18 months; personal injury, 12 months; other Queen's Bench, 15 months; Chancery, 15 months.

County Court: interlocutory, 4 months; possession, 4 months; personal injury, 8 months; other County Court, 12 months; Tribunals, 12 months.

In re Park Air Services plc
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Mummery

Judgment May 11
On the disclaimer of a lease in a winding up or a bankruptcy the disclaimer was entitled to prove for all the rent and other payments which he would have been entitled to recover from the tenant for the residue of the term, had the lease not been determined.

But in estimating the amount of the debt for which he proved, the landlord had to give credit for the fact that he had recovered the premises and could re-let them. If he could only re-let at a lower rent he could claim the difference between what he would have recovered from the old tenant and the amount he would in fact recover from a new tenant.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the landlord, Christopher Moran Holdings plc, from the decision of Mr Justice Fenton at first instance [1996] 2 All ER 547 hearing an application for a declaration as to the correct basis of calculating the loss or damage payable by the liquidators of Park Air Services plc, in respect of the disclaimer of that company's lease of commercial premises at 48 Gray's Inn Road, London, and determining the amount payable under section 178(6) of the Insolvency Act 1986 in the amount of £1,053,000.

Section 178 of the 1986 Act provides: "Any person assuming the liability for the loss or damage in consequence of the operation of a disclaimer under this section is deemed a creditor of the company to the extent of the loss or damage and accordingly may prove for the loss or damage in the winding up." The landlord, Moran, QC and Mr Peter Griffiths for the landlord; Mr Richard Atkins, QC and Mr Edward Cole for the liquidators, Mr Vivien Bainsworth and Mr Nigel Ruddock.

The evidence and the arguments before the judge were detailed and complex. The landlord's case on

the disclaimer of a lease in a winding up or a bankruptcy the disclaimer was entitled to prove for all the rent and other payments which he would have been entitled to recover from the tenant for the residue of the term, had the lease not been determined.

The issue was formulated in a more contentious form by Mr Moran, QC. At what price could a solvent company, put into voluntary liquidation by its members, buy off its obligations to the landlord under the lease?

In 1990 the landlord granted a lease of office buildings at 48 Gray's Inn Road to Park Air Services for a term of 25 years at an initial rent of £140,000, rising to £160,000 in the fourth and fifth years and with upward only rent reviews at five-yearly intervals thereafter. By 1994 it became apparent that the rent payable was substantially in excess of the current rental value.

In December 1994 Park Air Services entered into members' voluntary winding up and the liquidators gave notice of disclaimer of the lease. A dispute then arose as to the amount of the loss or damage payable by the liquidators. The landlord submitted calculations in support of a figure initially calculated at £5,350,178 and the liquidators estimated the amount as just under £200,000.

On the landlord's appeal, launched by an application dated April 6, 1995, against rejection of its claim for a declaration was sought pursuant to rule 4.33 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925) that the decision of the liquidators not to admit its proof, then in a revised amount of some £3,500,000, be reversed or varied. The judge had found in favour of the landlord to be a creditor of Park Air in the sum of £1,053,000.

The evidence and the arguments before the judge were detailed and complex. The landlord's case on

the disclaimer of a lease in a winding up or a bankruptcy the disclaimer was entitled to prove for all the rent and other payments which he would have been entitled to recover from the tenant for the residue of the term, had the lease not been determined.

The issue was formulated in a more contentious form by Mr Moran, QC. At what price could a solvent company, put into voluntary liquidation by its members, buy off its obligations to the landlord under the lease?

In 1990 the landlord granted a lease of office buildings at 48 Gray's Inn Road to Park Air Services for a term of 25 years at an initial rent of £140,000, rising to £160,000 in the fourth and fifth years and with upward only rent reviews at five-yearly intervals thereafter. By 1994 it became apparent that the rent payable was substantially in excess of the current rental value.

In December 1994 Park Air Services entered into members' voluntary winding up and the liquidators gave notice of disclaimer of the lease. A dispute then arose as to the amount of the loss or damage payable by the liquidators. The landlord submitted calculations in support of a figure initially calculated at £5,350,178 and the liquidators estimated the amount as just under £200,000.

On the landlord's appeal, launched by an application dated April 6, 1995, against rejection of its claim for a declaration was sought pursuant to rule 4.33 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925) that the decision of the liquidators not to admit its proof, then in a revised amount of some £3,500,000, be reversed or varied. The judge had found in favour of the landlord to be a creditor of Park Air in the sum of £1,053,000.

The evidence and the arguments before the judge were detailed and complex. The landlord's case on

the disclaimer of a lease in a winding up or a bankruptcy the disclaimer was entitled to prove for all the rent and other payments which he would have been entitled to recover from the tenant for the residue of the term, had the lease not been determined.

Dealing with uncontested applications

Practice Direction (Crown Office List: Consent orders)
Uncontested applications in civil and criminal cases or matters would be dealt with under a procedure which replaced that set out in respect of civil matters, in *Practice Direction (Crown Office List: Uncontested proceedings)*

[1982] 1 WLR 979 and, in so far as relevant to criminal matters, in *Practice Direction (Crown Office List: Criminal proceedings)* [1983] 1 WLR 925.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Lord Justice Millett, so stated on May 12.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE

Where the parties were agreed as to the terms on which proceedings entered in the Crown Office List could be disposed of and required an order of the court to put those terms into effect, they should lodge with the Crown Office a document, with two copies thereof, signed by the parties setting out the terms of the proposed agreed order and a short statement of the matters relied on as justifying the making of the order. Authorities and statutory provisions relied on being quoted.

The Crown Office would then submit the document to the court, in a civil case or matter to a single judge and in a criminal case, and if the court was satisfied that the order should be made, the proceedings would be listed for pronouncement of the order in open court without the need for attendance by the parties or their representatives.

If the court was not satisfied on the information originally provided, subsequently provided at the court's request, that the order could properly be made, the proceedings would be listed for hearing in the normal way.

2 Interlocutory orders

Where the parties agreed an interlocutory order and were agreed as to the terms of that proposed order they should lodge with the Crown Office a document, with two copies thereof, signed by the parties setting out the terms of the proposed agreed order and a short statement of the matters

relied on as justifying the making of the order, and, where appropriate, citing authorities and statutory provisions relied on.

The Crown Office would then submit the document to a judge, if he was satisfied thereof, the order should be made, the order would be drawn and sent to the parties without the need for the proceedings to be listed.

Withdrawal of proceedings, including habeas corpus

(a) Where leave of the court was not necessary for proceedings to be withdrawn, the applicant or appellant, as the case might be, must lodge a notice of withdrawal with the Crown Office and serve a copy of that notice on all other parties to the proceedings. The court file would then be closed.

(b) Where the parties were agreed that the proceedings should be withdrawn but required the leave of the court to do so, or seek an order for costs in relation to those proceedings, they should lodge with the Crown Office a document, with two copies thereof, signed by the parties setting out the terms of the proposed withdrawal.

The Crown Office would then submit the document to the Master of the Crown Office, if he was satisfied that the proceedings should be withdrawn on the terms proposed, any order necessary would be drawn and sent to the parties without the need for the proceedings to be listed in open court. The court file would then be closed.

Where the parties were agreed as to the terms on which proceedings entered in the Crown Office List could be disposed of and required an order of the court to put those terms into effect, they should lodge with the Crown Office a document, with two copies thereof, signed by the parties setting out the terms of the proposed agreed order and a short statement of the matters

relied on as justifying the making of the order, and, where appropriate, citing authorities and statutory provisions relied on.

The Crown Office would then submit the document to a judge, if he was satisfied thereof, the order should be made, the order would be drawn and sent to the parties without the need for the proceedings to be listed.

Withdrawal of proceedings, including habeas corpus

(a) Where leave of the court was not necessary for proceedings to be withdrawn, the applicant or appellant, as the case might be, must lodge a notice of withdrawal with the Crown Office and serve a copy of that notice on all other parties to the proceedings. The court file would then be closed.

(b) Where the parties were agreed that the proceedings should be withdrawn but required the leave of the court to do so, or seek an order for costs in relation to those proceedings, they should lodge with the Crown Office a document, with two copies thereof, signed by the parties setting out the terms of the proposed withdrawal.

The Crown Office would then submit the document to the Master of the Crown Office, if he was satisfied that the proceedings should be withdrawn on the terms proposed, any order necessary would be drawn and sent to the parties without the need for the proceedings to be listed in open court. The court file would then be closed.

Where the parties were agreed an interlocutory order and were agreed as to the terms of that proposed order they should lodge with the Crown Office a document, with two copies thereof, signed by the parties setting out the terms of the proposed agreed order and a short statement of the matters

relied on as justifying the making of the order, and, where appropriate, citing authorities and statutory provisions relied on.

The Crown Office would then submit the document to a judge, if he was satisfied thereof, the order should be made, the order would be drawn and sent to the parties without the need for the proceedings to be listed.

Withdrawal of proceedings, including habeas corpus

(a) Where leave of the court was not necessary for proceedings to be withdrawn, the applicant or appellant, as the case might be, must lodge a notice of withdrawal with the Crown Office and serve a copy of that notice on all other parties to the proceedings. The court file would then be closed.

(b) Where the parties were agreed that the proceedings should be withdrawn but required the leave of the court to do so, or seek an order for costs in relation to those proceedings, they should lodge with the Crown Office a document, with two copies thereof, signed by the parties setting out the terms of the proposed withdrawal.

The Crown Office would then submit the document to the Master of the Crown Office, if he was satisfied that the proceedings should be withdrawn on the terms proposed, any order necessary would be drawn and sent to the parties without the need for the proceedings to be listed in open court. The court file would then be closed.

Where the parties were agreed an interlocutory order and were agreed as to the terms of that proposed order they should lodge with the Crown Office a document, with two copies thereof, signed by the parties setting out the terms of the proposed agreed order and a short statement of the matters

relied on as justifying the making of the order, and, where appropriate, citing authorities and statutory provisions relied on.

The Crown Office would then submit the document to a judge, if he was satisfied thereof, the order should be made, the order would be drawn and sent to the parties without the need for the proceedings to be listed.

Withdrawal of proceedings, including habeas corpus

(a) Where leave of the court was not necessary for proceedings to be withdrawn, the applicant or appellant, as the case might be, must lodge a notice of withdrawal with the Crown Office and serve a copy of that notice on all other parties to the proceedings. The court file would then be closed.

(b) Where the parties were agreed that the proceedings should be withdrawn but required the leave of the court to do so, or seek an order for costs in relation to those proceedings, they should lodge with the Crown Office a document, with two copies thereof, signed by the parties setting out the terms of the proposed withdrawal.

Condition of gift sufficiently certain

Ellis v Chief Adjudication Officer
Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Oon and Lord Justice Schiemann

Judgment May 8
A condition of a gift of a flat by an elderly parent to her daughter that the daughter would look after the parent in the flat, was sufficiently certain to render the gift valid and effective in that it was to be construed as requiring the daughter to allow the parent to live in the flat as long as was reasonably practicable.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by Mrs Lorraine Ellis against the decision of the Chief Adjudication Officer on March 21, 1995 that she was not entitled to income support because her capital exceeded the prescribed amount of £6,000.

The Chief Adjudication Officer held that the gift of her home in Nottingham to her daughter, Anne, was a gift, and that the condition that her daughter would look after her in the flat that the condition was unfulfilled when the daughter evicted her whereupon the gift failed, entitling the mother to part of the proceeds of sale.

Miss Lorraine Findlay for the mother; Mr Timothy Mould for the Chief Adjudication Officer.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that if the condition which the mother laid down in her daughter was void for uncertainty it would promote her claim for income support, but she could not recover the proceeds of sale of her flat.

There had to be many elderly parents who parted with their property to their children in the faith of assurances such as that given to the mother.

Was the law to say that unless they made a contract to that effect, and unless the term was at least sufficiently certain to qualify as a term of a contract, they could do nothing to protect their interests?

The condition could fairly be construed as requiring the daughter to allow the mother to live in the flat for so long as it was reasonably practicable for her to do so and (b) to see that she was provided, for payment if required, with the basic necessities of life. Such a term had sufficient certainty to ensure that it was valid and not ineffective.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON, concurring, said that a fair meaning

to the condition was that the daughter was to look after the mother in the flat for so long as it was reasonably practicable for her to do so and (b) to see that she was provided, for payment if required, with the basic necessities of life. Such a term had sufficient certainty to ensure that it was valid and not ineffective.

The condition could fairly be construed as requiring the daughter to allow the mother to live in the flat for so long as it was reasonably practicable for her to do so and (b) to see that she was provided, for payment if required, with the basic necessities of life. Such a term had sufficient certainty to ensure that it was valid and not ineffective.

The condition could fairly be construed as requiring the daughter to allow the mother to live in the flat for so long

Telephone:
0171 680 6806

Crème de la Crème

Fax:
0171 782 7586

AUTHOR'S PA £20,000 + NEG

This successful international writer is looking for a committed secretary with a flexible and adaptable personality to work from his home in North London. Excellent shorthand as all his work is initially dictated. Fascinating environment for like-minded individual. Car driver.

110 wpm SH.
Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

COSMETICS £21,000

This prestigious international cosmetics house has an opportunity for a switched on PA. Unlimited variety and a high level of responsibility will make this a rewarding and stretching role. Senior level experience and 80 wpm shorthand essential.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ENTREPRENEUR £20,000

A new role in a start up situation supporting this charming Russian gentleman. Your social poise and your excellent organisational flair will prove invaluable as you establish systems and liaise with international VIPs. 60 wpm typing essential.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CHAIRMAN'S PA £25,000 + BENEFITS

A true right hand role assisting an extremely dynamic and successful individual. Challenging position requiring superb organisational skills. Lots of contact with VIPs. Would suit someone with an interest in current affairs. 90 wpm shorthand minimum.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FACILITIES ADMIN £22,000

Your organisational skills, telecons and hands-on experience of facilities is your passport to this varied role. The company is at the forefront of the telecoms industry, progressive, successful and expanding and offer you a career opportunity not to be missed.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PERSONAL ASSISTANT RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TRAINER SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS £ Excellent

We are expanding all Secretarial Divisions within MISON and are looking for bright, enthusiastic individuals. You will be well educated, European language helpful, but not essential, charming and resourceful, with a realistic approach to a role that is both demanding and satisfying. MISON takes a great pride in the service and care it offers both candidates and clients and you would represent our dedication to excellence in everything we do. Full training will be given in all aspects of the role, utilising the latest technology, therefore computer literacy essential. Please telephone Gill Gales on total confidence on 0171-583-5441 or Fax 0171-583-1784.

RECRUITMENT and INTERVIEWING 30s - 40s

A rare chance for a successful and businesslike 30s-40s to join Covent Garden Bureau's Interviewing Team. A Customer Service or Personnel background is ideal, plus the resilience to make a success of this challenging career. Salary package to £25,000. Please call David Fisher or Elma Zail.

COVENT GARDEN BUREAU
8 MADDOCK STREET LONDON W1P 9PN
0171 495 8822

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

London, W1
£12,775 - £16,782 per annum
You will provide secretarial and administrative support and will have excellent organisational and secretarial skills, including 50 wpm shorthand and the ability to take minutes of meetings. You will be expected to demonstrate initiative, particularly in the Chief Probation Officer's absence, as well as complete integrity in dealing with confidential matters and officials with whom you will have contact. You will use Word Perfect 6.1, as well as Lotus Notes E-Mail and also be expected to work as part of a team. For an application pack, send a POSTCARD with your name and address, to: Midlands Probation Service (reference HOP/PA), 4th Floor, Glen House, 200 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LA. Closing date: 30th May 1997.

As Equal Opportunities Employer, providing Quality Services.
Midlands Probation Service

SOFTWARE HOUSE, PUTNEY. £14K-£18K EXPERIENCED SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR

to work with Management Team of small, friendly but hectic company with international client base.
♦ HARDWORKING / FLEXIBLE / WELL ORGANISED
♦ MINIMUM 'A' LEVEL EDUCATION ♦ EXCELLENCE IN WORDS
♦ FLUENT FRENCH ESSENTIAL
Please send letter and CV to Christine Stone

HILL PRICE DAVISON
Adley House, 170 Upper Richmond Rd, Putney, London SW15 2BN

RECEPTIONIST/JUNIOR SECRETARY

Bright, enthusiastic Receptionist required for West End office of nationwide property firm. Duties will include switchboard, copy typing, travel arrangements and general receptionist duties. An excellent telephone manner and good keyboard skills will therefore be essential. Age 18-25. Ideally you will have 6-12 months minimum office experience. Knowledge of W4W would be an advantage.

If you would like to join our young dynamic team, please write, enclosing your CV and current salary details to:
Mr P J Angier
Workmen & Partners
Marble Arch House
28/29a Brompton Road
London W11 1EP
Strictly no agencies

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

Working for a small but busy South Kensington property company. You will have a very varied workload, including certain personal work. You must be reliable and able to operate under pressure, while retaining a good telephone manner and a sunny disposition. A clear thinking and organised mind is essential.
Salary according to age and experience.
Please send CV by fax to 0171 581 8425 or write to L Johnson, 97 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LD.

CONSULTANCY PA.

PA required for management consultancy in Knightsbridge. Excellent opportunity for skilled, experienced PA to provide administrative support to senior consultants. The successful candidate will be self-directed, responsible, able to communicate with senior clients, and possess excellent secretarial skills (Word for Windows, Powerpoint, Excel). European Language skills required. Salary to £18,000 p.a.
To apply, please forward your CV, including a note about your career interests, and salary expectations to UMS Group UK Limited, 195 Knightsbridge, London, SW7 1RE, marked for the attention of David Johnson.

PA (+ADMIN) £20-23K

Working with Managing Partner of top-level consulting firm. Good skills and self-motivated. West End.
Tel: Julia Stark
0171-584 3408

WEST END SURVEYORS

Seek bright receptionist. Excellent telephone manner & excellent secretarial skills. Salary to be put in hand. Please apply Dione
Green Place TEL: 0171 493 3993
FAX: 0171 499 4967

Prestigious Merchant Bank

Canary Wharf
Temp Secretaries
Long term Assignments
W4, Powerpoint, Excel
£10+ ph
Fax CV to Caroline
Smith
0181 987 1755

SECRETARY

Small team of Property Consultants in Knightsbridge require self-motivated secretary with good communication skills who is keen to get involved. Car driver essential. Salary negotiable. Start asap.
Tel: 0171 225 1616

OPPORTUNITIES IN HR

£18-£25,000

We are currently recruiting for a number of senior secretarial vacancies in the Human Resources Departments of blue chip, city-based organisations. These are fast-paced positions which require the ability to thrive in an often hectic and pressured environment and to be able to deal diplomatically with sensitive and confidential issues. As well as providing full secretarial support, you will have to arrange meetings, co-ordinate diaries and liaise with staff at all levels. If you have over 2 years' secretarial experience and relish the opportunity to play a pivotal role in the future of a major company, call us now.

Committed to equal opportunities
0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

MARKETING MOLE

£18-20,000 (temp to perm)

This global organisation needs a graduate secretary for their high profile Marketing Team. The job requires a proactive confident person to work alongside them and act as a focal point in their absence. You will be responsible for their travel arrangements, conferences and hectic diaries in addition to more long term project work. Your sound knowledge of Windows including graphics plus drive and ambition will be your entry qualification enabling you to dig the foundations of a marketing career. Please call us now.

Committed to equal opportunities
0171 287 7788

Angela Mortimer

SUMMERS & Co

TOP RECEPTIONISTS INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES £16,500 - £19,000

Several opportunities have arisen to very prestigious international companies. Some of the top receptionists must either a role as receptionist or a larger team. Excellent previous international experience needed together with stylish grooming and excellent speech. Keyboard skills & Microsoft required.

Please call 0171 637 3312

RED, BLUE OR GREEN..

PA TO MARKETING MD

£22K - 1ST CLASS BENS - LEISURE CO.
Roles like this are rare! Working for a dynamic MD you should expect a high admin content combined with excellent VIP liaison. 50wpm SH, Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint. A second language an advantage. Call Corina NOW!
DEPARTMENTAL SEC/ADMINISTRATOR
UP TO £16K + PAID OFF + BENS - CITY
Do you thrive under pressure? Are you 21-30, client driven and enjoy a financial environment? Come and meet our City based client who requires advanced Graphics & Word plus Intermediate Excel with 50wpm typing. Call Deborah NOW!
YOUNG SECS - BOYS, BUCKS & BOLLINGERS
UP TO £16K + EXC. BENS
Want to join the City's White Hot and get a piece of the action? This City Bank has two openings for Secretaries aged 19-25 (College Leavers welcome) with 40wpm typing, and Word for Windows. If you are outgoing and enjoy a male environment, call Anna NOW!

For further information call Wendy or Rachel.
La Cene Recruitment Consultants
on 0171 420 8008 or fax your CV to
0171 420 8044

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT

TEL: 0171 734 8484
FAX: 0171 734 8501

..JOIN THE WINNING TEAM!

• Are you aged 18-40?
• Have a good working knowledge of MS Office?
• Good audio and shorthand skills?

REWARDS
• Holiday pay
• Highly competitive rates
• 52 weeks per year employment
• Chance to win £1,000 in prize draw
• Friendly, professional and dedicated consultants

INTERESTED?
CALL NOW FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW!

PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

CREATIVE SW6 c£18K
Fashion Co req 2nd/3rd Jobber, with rusty SH to work as PA to Dir. & team.
FINANCE WC1 & SW6 c£20K
Corporate PA req with F.D. level exp to work in Retail & Accountancy. Rusty SH ess.
DTP WC2 & WC1 c£18-20K
2 Consultants req DTP Sec. 1: indepth exp of PageMaker. 2: exp of Quark.
FASHION WC1 & SW6 c£18-22K
PA req with SH/50wpm, W4W, Type 50wpm & exc secretarial skills. Age 20-35.
For further information call Wendy or Rachel.
La Cene Recruitment Consultants
on 0171 420 8008 or fax your CV to
0171 420 8044

P/A SECRETARY

An experienced and self-motivated individual is required to support the development of a brand new healthcare business. As well as working with the Managing Director, the successful candidate will support the sales & marketing team and be responsible for setting up the necessary office systems. Experience with MSOffice would be an advantage. If interested in joining an enthusiastic team and making a valuable contribution, then please send current C.V. to:-

The Managing Director
International Telemedicine Services
10 Charles II Street
London
SW1Y 4AA

NUMERATE PART-TIME PA

Managing Director of small international magazine publishing company in Westminster seeks numerate, utterly reliable PA with excellent skills (if rusty) who can support the business from both MD & abroad on business. Needs to be able to work without supervision and like getting things right. Hours: 10.00 to 1.00 Monday to Friday. Generous unpaid time off if possible, as well as 4 weeks' paid holiday. 'Microsoft' skills. Please send hand-written letter and typed CV to:
Benefit & Compensation International,
45 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 9LT,
tel. 0171 222 6288.

JUNIOR ADMINISTRATOR TO £13,000

Quintessential is a young, dynamic IT recruitment consultancy based in modern offices just north of the city. We are expanding rapidly and currently require a Junior Administrator. You must have good typing skills (minimum 20 wpm), some computer experience and ideally will be confident in dealing with a senior telephone manner. Full training will be provided for the right candidate.
Your responsibilities will include answering the phone, typing and scanning CVs, updating the database, filing and photocopying together with a variety of other duties. If you are interested in applying, please forward your CV to Joanne Hildesley at Quintessential Ltd, 4 Bath Street, London, EC1V 9EX. Fax: 0171 608 1206. Please: 0171 528 0350. Email: options.connections@quintessential.co.uk

SHEILA CHILDS RECRUITMENT £25,000

The Chief Executive of a West End PLC at the very forefront of its field in an exclusive and colourful market seeks a PA who, in his own words, is capable of running a business. You will need to be very sharp with a career founded on self-assurance and an ability to inspire confidence. You will be peppy in both ethos and style with an inclusive mind and by nature you are calm and steady. As a matter of routine you will read the financial pages on a daily basis, have an awareness of current affairs and a real interest in how the business world operates. On top of all this you will of course have a wonderful sense of humour!
Age 25-35. Skills 80/60.
4 Ganton Street, London W1V 1LJ
Telephone: 0171 437 3111 Fax: 0171 437 4050

TOP FLIGHT CENTRAL LONDON PROPERTY BROKER

To join and be trained within an existing very successful team. No previous experience required. OTE £20K-50K after training plus company car. Must live in London and be aged 21-30.
Tel: 0171 973 2048.

FIRST CLASS AUDIO SECRETARY / ADMINISTRATOR

Required for this small friendly West End Insurance Firm. Must have excellent audio skills and be keen to learn and develop the role. Good knowledge of Word for Windows 6.0 essential. Salary Range £17,000 to £21,000.
Full CV and hand-written covering to Box No 9877
No Agencies

OUTSOURCING CAMBRIDGE

Secretarial Position - scope to develop. We are looking for a calm, confident, self-motivated secretary who has excellent skills, is efficient, well organised and able to produce a varied workload. The right person will have sound knowledge of systems and accurate typing skills. A knowledge of graphics and word processing would be an advantage. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview. Please send your CV to:

Call Steven Moore/Wick Lewis
on 0171 416 7788
or fax CV to
0171 416 7852

Up to £16,500 pa Secretary/ Administrator

We are an expanding business services group requiring an energetic, enthusiastic secretary who can multi-task and deal confidently with clients. Strong organisational skills and a keen sense of humour essential.
Call Steven Moore/Wick Lewis
on 0171 416 7788
or fax CV to
0171 416 7852

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/ SECRETARY MAYFAIR OFFICE

The applicant should be a person of integrity, lively and with motivation and good office skills, with a good telephone manner. Duties to commence A.S.A.P.
Send CV and 2 References to: 21 St James's Street, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1X 7LJ

Young Media Secretaries

Junior Sec Advertising, W. End. Sec with Apple Mac.
Junior Sec Publishing 3 secs needed in large SW1 co.
Junior Sec Media/Design, W1 50wpm - Excel
Client Services Sec to £14,000 Advertising, W1. 50wpm - Windows
Please Advise now
on 0171 988 0882

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Are you an experienced Powerpoint operator or presentation secretary? Long or short term bookings available for West End and City clients. For an interview call Hazel Neale or Rachel Higgins at Tate Appointments on 0171 468 0424.

Tate
TIME SPECIALISTS

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS PURE RECEPTION

£19,000 - Right Share + Gap + Bonus + 100% commission on all new business.
We are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic, and motivated individual to join our team as a Pure Receptionist. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling all incoming calls, providing excellent customer service, and managing the reception area. The role requires a minimum of 18 months' experience in a similar position. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Please send your CV and a recent photograph to: Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants, 100 St. James Street, London W1X 7LJ. Tel: 0171 734 7441 Fax: 0171 734 7442

Shorthand PA for World Famous Co:

In this role you will never be bored! Supporting a charismatic and dynamic Chairman and Managing Director you will have the confidence and expertise to liaise on a daily level with senior influential people. Your role will encompass providing full secretarial support, organising extensive travel itineraries, arranging in house lunches, organising cooks, waitresses and menus, and on occasions attending exhibitions.

For you to be considered for this exciting role you will need to be aged 26 - 40 with 50wpm shorthand, 60wpm typing, a knowledge or interest of wine would be helpful.

Salary is negotiable and benefits include: Life & Health Insurance + BUPA + Profit Related Bonus + White Allowance + Raf MB.

Exp or Trainee Consultant
If you have excellent communication skills and enjoy talking on the phone and meeting people then consider a career in recruitment. Our clients range from small businesses to large multi-national organisations, offering opportunity to get totally involved. Salary will be commensurate with age and experience. Ref: MB

Headway
Tel: 0171 494 0448 Fax: 0171 494 0321

PA TO VICE PRESIDENT £24,000 + bens.

The VP, who is American, has overall responsibility for Europe & South Africa. His company is involved in the oil industry & has its HQ in the U.S. You will work with him not for him & have a lot of responsibility & fun coming your way. This is a proactive role for an intelligent, structured & resourceful PA, who wishes to work as an equal in superb West End offices.
0171 493 2888.

HERITAGE RECRUITMENT

FIRST CLASS PA £24,000 + Super Benefits City

Chief Executive of prestigious Group of Companies requires a polished, well educated PA to run his office and that of his part-time Chairman. This position offers a total involvement from secretarial work to managing support staff. You will need to be an excellent communicator, a team organizer, plus have a minimum 90 wpm shorthand. If this sounds like you please ring:
Tel: 0171 588 3055 Fax: 0171 588 3066
MITCHELL YOUNG ASSOCIATES
Executive Secretarial Recruitment

OFFICE MANAGER - W1 £30,000 + Super Benefits

This US Management Consultants seek an office manager from a corporate background. You will be responsible for the smooth running of the office (800 people) from the telephone system, post room through to suppliers & recruiting support staff. A strong personality & the ability to deal with people at all levels is a must. This is a very busy & varied position that would suit a flexible & professional individual. Office Management or facilities experience is essential.
Harriet Gabb
Tel: 0171 828 3838/Fax: 0171 828 3888
RECRUITMENT
0171 222 3888
No CV's please

1st/2nd jobbers.

We currently have a wide variety of positions of varying seniority open for recruitment. You will be well educated with good presentation skills.
London P.A. £14,000 - £24,000
Publishing £14,000 - £22,000
Property £14,000 - £22,000
International Sec. £14,000 - £22,000
Luxury goods £14,000 - £22,000
Fashion £14,000 - £22,000
Advocates up to £22,000
Call us now for immediate role - Home or Mobile 0171 588 3066

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

required for West End media recruitment and training consultancy company. Ability to use WORD, the web site, manage the systems and run the show at media. Friendly, open office. Good negotiable salary, college leave combined. Flexible hours.
Contact Louise Alexander
Phone Vanessa Halliday
0171-426-9834

ART WORLD £25,000+

The influential, brilliant Chairman of leading international Art Gallery is looking for outstanding PA. Candidate must be charming, excellent eye for detail, quick, flexible and thrive in a demanding pressurised environment. 90+ sh. good spoken French. Age: 25+. Ref: T48

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES 0171-468 0400

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS PURE RECEPTION

£19,000 - Right Share + Gap + Bonus + 100% commission on all new business.
We are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic, and motivated individual to join our team as a Pure Receptionist. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling all incoming calls, providing excellent customer service, and managing the reception area. The role requires a minimum of 18 months' experience in a similar position. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Please send your CV and a recent photograph to: Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants, 100 St. James Street, London W1X 7LJ. Tel: 0171 734 7441 Fax: 0171 734 7442

Aylesbury MATURE OFFICE MANAGER/PA £25,000 Negotiable + package

For further information call Wendy or Rachel.
La Cene Recruitment Consultants
on 0171 420 8008 or fax your CV to
0171 420 8044

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS PURE RECEPTION

£19,000 - Right Share + Gap + Bonus + 100% commission on all new business.
We are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic, and motivated individual to join our team as a Pure Receptionist. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling all incoming calls, providing excellent customer service, and managing the reception area. The role requires a minimum of 18 months' experience in a similar position. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Please send your CV and a recent photograph to: Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants, 100 St. James Street, London W1X 7LJ. Tel: 0171 734 7441 Fax: 0171 734 7442

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS PURE RECEPTION

£19,000 - Right Share + Gap + Bonus + 100% commission on all new business.
We are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic, and motivated individual to join our team as a Pure Receptionist. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling all incoming calls, providing excellent customer service, and managing the reception area. The role requires a minimum of 18 months' experience in a similar position. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Please send your CV and a recent photograph to: Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants, 100 St. James Street, London W1X 7LJ. Tel: 0171 734 7441 Fax: 0171 734 7442

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS PURE RECEPTION

£19,000 - Right Share + Gap + Bonus + 100% commission on all new business.
We are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic, and motivated individual to join our team as a Pure Receptionist. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling all incoming calls, providing excellent customer service, and managing the reception area. The role requires a minimum of 18 months' experience in a similar position. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Please send your CV and a recent photograph to: Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants, 100 St. James Street, London W1X 7LJ. Tel: 0171 734 7441 Fax: 0171 734 7442

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS PURE RECEPTION

£19,000 - Right Share + Gap + Bonus + 100% commission on all new business.
We are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic, and motivated individual to join our team as a Pure Receptionist. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling all incoming calls, providing excellent customer service, and managing the reception area. The role requires a minimum of 18 months' experience in a similar position. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Please send your CV and a recent photograph to: Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants, 100 St. James Street, London W1X 7LJ. Tel: 0171 734 7441 Fax: 0171 734 7442

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS PURE RECEPTION

£19,000 - Right Share + Gap + Bonus + 100% commission on all new business.
We are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic, and motivated individual to join our team as a Pure Receptionist. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling all incoming calls, providing excellent customer service, and managing the reception area. The role requires a minimum of 18 months' experience in a similar position. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Please send your CV and a recent photograph to: Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants, 100 St. James Street, London W1X 7LJ. Tel: 0171 734 7441 Fax: 0171 734 7442

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS PURE RECEPTION

£19,000 - Right Share + Gap + Bonus + 100% commission on all new business.
We are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic, and motivated individual to join our team as a Pure Receptionist. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling all incoming calls, providing excellent customer service, and managing the reception area. The role requires a minimum of 18 months' experience in a similar position. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Please send your CV and a recent photograph to: Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants, 100 St. James Street, London W1X 7LJ. Tel: 0171 734 7441 Fax: 0171 734 7442

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS PURE RECEPTION

£19,000 - Right Share + Gap + Bonus + 100% commission on all new business.
We are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic, and motivated individual to join our team as a Pure Receptionist. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling all incoming calls, providing excellent customer service, and managing the reception area. The role requires a minimum of 18 months' experience in a similar position. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Please send your CV and a recent photograph to: Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants, 100 St. James Street, London W1X 7LJ. Tel: 0171 734 7441 Fax: 0171 734 7442

Telephone:
0171 680 6806

Crème de la Crème

Fax:
0171 782 7586

Room at The TOP

Support Secretary - Coordinator
(Maternity cover available)

Up to £40,000

Our client, a prestigious American investment Bank is looking to recruit a highly driven and professional individual capable of co-ordinating the recruitment, training and development of secretaries and support staff within their Investment Banking Division. You will need to have first class communication skills to liaise at all levels, have

proven problem solving, interviewing and people management skills and be able to cope with a fast moving and demanding environment. Your team contribution, flexibility and initiative will be rewarded by working in this challenging and dynamic role. This position requires confidence and poise coupled with an outgoing personality.

Please fax your CV in confidence to: 0171 614 0803
Closing ref: 207
Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.
All applicants are positively welcomed.

Angela Mortimer

International Flavour to £18,000

Exciting opening in the City for a proactive secretary to support a charming Underwriting Manager who is responsible for developing new business opportunities abroad. You need to be a strong communicator and organiser who works well to tight deadlines. Skills: Word, Lotus and Freelance. Please call Kary Burke on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Fashionable People Personnel £18 - 20,000

Well known Fashion House seeks a lively and enthusiastic graduate level team secretary. You will be the lynchpin to three managers which will involve setting up new systems, dealing with internal recruitment, co-ordinating diaries and travel as well as general correspondence and administration. If you have a minimum of two years experience with an interest in personnel, good WP skills and 55wpm please contact Lucy Thomas on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Not The Usual Legal Job £19 - 21,000 + Bens

Extremely proactive and energetic Executive Secretary is required to support a Senior International Attorney plus one associate within this dynamic and highly motivated company based within the heart and glamour of W1. If you are outgoing and enjoy extensive client liaison coupled with legal experience and some SH/Speedwriting call now Tara Lyons on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Fun with Figures Stunning Offices Upto £21,000

If you are a great organiser and enjoy working with figures, then this is the job for you. A fun, lively Finance Director of this large charity is looking for a senior PA/secretary to support him and his team. Juggle priorities, manage his diary and work life. An outgoing, responsible personality is necessary. Excellent shorthand and typing skills (80/60). Ideal age 30-40. Please call Camilla Loughton on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Money, Money, Money... Temps to £10.00 p/hr

Come and join our fantastic temp team and experience all the glamour and excitement the City has to offer. Choose the buzz of the trading floor or the intrigue of corporate finance and show them what a good team secretary is made of! Excellent windows packages, 55 wpm and the right attitude is all you need to get the best deal including top rates, overtime and AIR MILES awards. Call us now for an immediate interview and let us take you further than you ever thought possible. 0171-390 7000

Crone Corkill
Temporary Recruitment

JOSLIN ROWE

secretarial recruitment consultants
TEAM SECRETARIES
£18,000 + BENS CITY

Team secretaries are needed to work for prestigious city firms. Suitable candidates will be bright with a good education, enthusiastic and able to work well under pressure and to tight deadlines. As you will be working in a team, interpersonal skills, confidence and initiative are all essential qualities. Main duties will include audio and copy typing, presentation work, arranging travel, liaising with clients and looking after overseas visitors. If you are highly motivated with a willingness to learn, these roles could offer scope for progression. Shorthand skills and some knowledge of a language would be advantageous.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House,
11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE

secretarial recruitment consultants
BILINGUAL SECRETARIES
£22,000 + BENS CITY

We currently have several exciting opportunities for bright and professional linguists with good secretarial skills. The positions range from PA to team secretaries in banks, insurance firms and blue chip companies. Your languages will be used for telephone liaison, reading documents and in some cases composing correspondence. These are very busy and demanding roles and duties will include arranging meetings and business trips. Fast typing speeds and good shorthand knowledge (MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint) are essential, as is fluent English and relevant office experience. Good DTW skills and a flexibility to work hours would be especially useful for positions in Corporate Finance. We urgently need German and Italian speakers but would welcome applications from secretaries with another language and other European languages.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House,
11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE

secretarial recruitment consultants
OPPORTUNITIES IN CORPORATE FINANCE
£21,000 + BANK BENS CITY

We have a number of vacancies for secretaries to work in Corporate Finance within different city-based financial institutions. All the positions require excellent systems knowledge including Word, Excel and PowerPoint, fast, accurate typing speeds (80wpm) and at least 8 GCSEs (Grade C or above). Flexibility with regards to working hours is essential along with the ability to prioritise and handle responsibility. Some of the positions require good knowledge of German and others seek secretaries with shorthand. Previous experience in Corporate Finance is desirable but if you have worked in a financial environment at senior level and feel that this is the area in which you will thrive, please contact us immediately.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House,
11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE

secretarial recruitment consultants
OPPORTUNITIES IN COMPLIANCE
£21,000 + BANK BENS CITY/DOCKLANDS

We have a number of vacancies based in Compliance working for various City investment companies such as leading strong organisations and professional firms. The positions require excellent organisational and administrative skills and experience within the area. Candidates will be expected to take on a variety of projects so they must be proactive, enthusiastic and ambitious. A recognised secretarial qualification and speeds of at least 60 wpm for audio and copy typing are essential for general correspondence coupled with a good education and solid work history. Advanced knowledge of Word for Windows, PowerPoint and Excel. One of these roles requires a basic understanding of German.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House,
11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE

secretarial recruitment consultants
AMBITIOUS PA
£20,000 + BANK BENS CITY

High recognised Investment Services Company are currently looking to recruit an ambitious, independent and confident senior secretary to work in the Sales and Client Services department for a team of up to four. There is a chance to develop beyond the secretarial sphere, candidates must be at degree level, have 5 years secretarial experience, confident on spreadsheet work and graphics. Other duties shall include travel arrangements, diary management, typing reports and presentation work. This is a temp to perm position, starting mid May.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House,
11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

HIGHLY RATEABLE!

Temping that adds up

\$15.00ph
• 54 yrs PA experience at Chairman/Board Director level
• 120 wpm shorthand/100wpm typing/audio
• Advanced Word for Windows, Excel, PowerPoint and DTW skills
• Excellent organisational skills

\$12.50ph
• 34 yrs PA experience at Director level
• 100wpm shorthand/60wpm typing/audio
• Advanced Word for Windows, PowerPoint (or Freelance) and Excel

\$10.00ph
• 12 yrs PA level experience at Director level
• 80 wpm shorthand/55 wpm typing/audio
• Advanced Word for Windows, Excel, Intermediate PowerPoint

\$9.00ph
• 12 yrs team level secretarial experience
• 55wpm typing
• Advanced Word for Windows and Intermediate Excel

As a Crone Corkill temporary secretary your skills will always be recognised by us and rewarded with the best hourly rates in London. We match everyone's individual skills to the right assignment and ensure you receive the rate you deserve.

- Plus we offer you opportunities to explore the world of high finance in the City with its fast moving pace and frequent long hours - good for the bank balance! Alternatively, the West End provides a wealth of different industries from media to marketing in ples and private companies.
- In addition, we are the only agency in London to give our temporary team AIR MILES® awards for every hour worked.
- If you have language skills we have a specialist language division to find you work.
- The sum total of this is one you afford not to register with Crone Corkill?

0171-390 7000 0171-390 7000 0171-434 4512
City Multilingual West End



Crone Corkill
Temporary Recruitment

PA/Secretary

£20,000

A dynamic, global telecommunications company requires a flexible PA for a varied role. Excellent Word for Windows, PowerPoint, and Excel skills are a must together with the ability to cope with pressure. This position offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Shorthand is desirable but not essential.

For Executive Secretarial positions in the West End, Tel: 0171 224 2820
REED
For over 1,000 jobs, visit: <http://www.reed.co.uk>

Shorthand PA

£20,000

An excellent opportunity to support the Financial Director of this metals company. Candidates will possess a flexible attitude to work and a good command of English, both written and verbal. Advanced secretarial skills essential with 5-6 years' senior level experience, W&W, Excel, PowerPoint and a minimum of 50 wpm.

For Executive Secretarial positions in the City, Tel: 0171 636 1666
REED
For over 1,000 jobs, visit: <http://www.reed.co.uk>

Hectic Trading Floor x 5

To £20,000 + MS + Bens.

Various excellent openings exist for Sales Assistants/Secretaries/Research Assistants to work within some of London's leading Investment Banks. The roles will require banking experience, MS Office knowledge and confident personalities. All positions involve client contact and admin back-up.

Please contact Melinda Marks
Melinda Marks & Co Ltd,
Executive Secretarial Consultants
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1265 Fax: 0171 626 5299

CHEERS!

£25k + plus bens

A unique opportunity has arisen at this internationally renowned drinks company for an Executive PA. You will be working with a Senior Vice President of HR who's remit includes worldwide policy decisions as well as a strategic business focus. You must have at least 5 years experience of working with a senior HR professional within a global environment. Computer literacy in Word for Windows 6.0, PowerPoint and Excel is essential together with the ability to remain calm under pressure and maintain absolute discretion at all times. Put the fax back into your job and call Natalie Dowling 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

PA/administrator

£20,000 - International Corporation

GORDON-YATES
The company: High profile organisation, operating globally within fast-moving markets.
The role: Director-level, looking after travel, diary, presentation material etc in an exciting 'marketing driven' environment.
The essentials: Strong organising and communication skills; ability to deal at all levels; MS Office skills.
Please call 0171-484 4486 or fax 0171-484 4488.

ARE you a winner?

Intelligent Admin/Secs needed - £18K

GORDON-YATES
The company: Top ranking, prestigious investment capital company.
The role: Providing pro-active admin/sec support to a high performing team; working for two executives, helping with their portfolios.
The essentials: Strong secretarial background (ideally blue chip); A-level calibre; numerate; 55wpm typing.
Please call 0171-484 4488 or fax 0171-484 4488.

Judy Farquharson Ltd.

PUBLISHING - PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Excellent opportunity for a graduate to gain production experience with a magazine publishers. Must have 6 months' + production experience and 50wpm typing. Quark and Pagemaker an advantage. £12-14,000.

MARKETING ASSISTANT Well known international luxury good company requires a graduate with 50wpm typing, excellent organisational skills and lots of initiative to assist the Marketing Manager. Immediate start. £12,000.

PR - ACCOUNT ASSISTANT A fantastic break into PR for a graduate with a corporate and consumer PR agency. Must have 6 months' + office experience and 50wpm typing. Immediate start. £12,000. Please fax or send CV's to Judith Wood.

47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9HA
Tel: 0171-488 5824 Fax: 0171-482 7161
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

LATE IN THE CITY TONIGHT AT 12 DEVONSHIRE ROW, EC2, (LIVERPOOL STREET) 4.30 - 7.30

Come and join our Senior Consultants for a glass of wine and find out more about many exciting opportunities they have on offer. Current vacancies cover a wide section of industry from Banking to the Arts World and as we specialise in senior appointments the salaries are all over £20,000. If you are unable to join, please call to book an appointment.
Caroline Butcher on 0171 499 5881
Adecco Elite

VIBRANT, FAST Paced AND FUN NATIONAL NEWSPAPER £17,500 + SUPER BENEFITS

Three top young secretaries would respond to a relaxed but deadline orientated environment as required by one of the country's leading newspapers. Make your mark and see your initiative within a team spirit. A true sense of duty and a genuine interest in the work is essential. A true sense of duty and a genuine interest in the work is essential. A true sense of duty and a genuine interest in the work is essential.

Call Anne Apple on 0171 823 2853 or fax on 0171 263 2427 to make an appointment

Marketing Magic £20,000 p.a.

Scintillating, motivated, versatile PA (and 20%) to look after young dynamic Director of leading Mfg Co. You will need lots of energy, confidence, proven organisational skills & p.c. fluency, as well as experience in related environment.

Senior PA £23,000 p.a.
Perfect PA skills combined with specific admin. exp. essential in assisting this multifaceted MD of prestigious corp. finance co. In all aspects of his business/personal life. Dictionary & a 'silly' silly approach will ensure you thrive in this diversified role.

JOYCE GUINNESS
PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA TO MD

to £22,000

GORDON-YATES
The company: Specialist in exclusive retail services, with outlets in London's most prestigious department stores.
The role: To provide focused, dedicated one-to-one support to a highly regarded, hard working female MD.
The essentials: Advanced W&W and Excel; accurate typing (60wpm); proven career commitment.
Please call 0171-484 4486 or fax 0171-484 4488.

HELP achieve excellence

Customer Relations Manager - £22K package

GORDON-YATES
The company: Innovative, exciting conference services company based in SE1.
The role: Providing the best possible service to 'blue chip' clients, setting the standards of excellence in a competitive market.
The essentials: Graduate-calibre team player, with proven experience within a similar customer service role; confidence; stamina!
Please call 0171-484 4488 or fax 0171-484 4488.

SEC CO-ORDINATOR

£16,000 + EXC BENS

Very dynamic, fun & rapidly growing Mgmt. Consultants Division seek an organized sec to work as part of their lively team in a high admin role. You will be using your initiative in dealing with clients, project mgmt & implementing systems. Extensive co-ordinating of hectic diaries & schedules along with your own area of resp. Exc opp for 2nd jobber sec with 60wpm audio to shine & progress. Maths/Eng C+, MS Word & knowledge of P/Point.

Call Jacqui
NEXT EMPLOYMENT
TEL: 0171 287 3664 FAX: 0171 287 3564

APPOINTMENTS Bi-LANGUAGE

SICK OF 'RUN OF THE MILL' SECRETARIAL WORK? WONDER WHY YOU EVER DID 'THAT COURSE' FED UP WITH AGENCIES?

We do not promise to be miracle workers, but for candidates with a good secretarial skills (50 wpm & Word for Windows), personality, an international outlook and the right attitude, we can guarantee the following:
● clients who offer genuine career prospects.
● constructive meetings with friendly and helpful consultants who listen and take note of your requirements and aspirations.
● interviews with clients who you will want to see.
● access to dynamic and interesting environments where you will be working with like-minded people.
● clients who appreciate top-calibre candidates and reward your invaluable contribution with generous salaries and benefits.
● benefits often include excellent bonus schemes, paid overtime, mortgage subsidy/housing allowance, gym and restaurant facilities.

SEE HOW WE PRACTICE WHAT OTHERS PREACH
Call us now!
Tel: 0171-355 1975/0171-734 3380
Fax: 0171-499 0568

NEW LABOUR?

The election may be over but your opportunities are just beginning!

We require
PA/SECRETARIES
From all different industries to fill a variety of posts. Your main skills should be a good secretarial background with a minimum typing speed of 60wpm, with W&W, Excel and ideally PowerPoint. If you have shorthand and foreign languages, in addition to the above, this will prove to be an advantage. Vote for yourself! And call Sam now for an appointment.

Tel: 0171 287 0220
Portman Recruitment
181 Oxford St
London W1
Fax: 0171 287 1060

West End 0171-287 0220

WA

£16,000

"PROACTIVE IN PR"

This is a rare opportunity for a bright secretary (min. 18 mths. exp.) to join this top PR Consultancy. Supporting two dynamic individuals your role will be extremely varied and will include extensive client and media liaison, diary management as well as putting together press releases and presentations. In the absence of your bosses your role will be expected to use your initiative as you will be the first point of call for their clients. You must be an outgoing individual who is a confident communicator and has solid secretarial skills. A genuine interest in PR is advantageous. Please call Claire Hawker.

0171 225 1888
VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

PROPERTY PA

Key'd to work for a prestigious Kensington Agency. Good typing & communication skills essential. Needs to be enthusiastic, well presented and keen to learn in property. Salary £16K.

For more info CALL: 0171 938 3855
Estate Agency Recruitment

BANKING PA

£24K + Bens

Our client urgently needs a bright, articulate, organised pro-active PA to assist this newly appointed Director. Some banking background essential together with good MS skills in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.

Shortlisted. Call Christine 0171 600 6220
600 6220 Gray & Assoc Rec
Fax 0171 600 6221

TOP NOTCH PA 21k + EXCELLENT BENES

Int. Executive Consultant PA for the European Director. Organising travel, diary, meetings, finances and client liaison. A confident, articulate individual. Any EUROPEAN LANGUAGE an advantage. Solid work background. Word & Excel & PowerPoint. Age 27-40.

LINK PEOPLE
88 KINGSWAY, W1C 6AA
TEL: 0171 259 9978
FAX: 0171 259 9977

Telephone:
0171 680 6806

Crème de la Crème

Fax:
0171 782 7586

Aldrich & Company

COMPLIANCE ADMINISTRATOR
£22,000 + Overtime & Banking Bens
Co-ordinate meetings, prepare research, draft minutes, set up systems, correspond and liaise with the regulatory bodies - managing the constant flow of information. You will need superb organisational skills, must think on your feet and have a professional attitude - Ring Emily Aldrich to fix an immediate interview.

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

SECRETARY TO A SENIOR DIRECTOR
£21,000 + Overtime & Banking Bens
A Senior Director requires a confident secretary to whom he can delegate projects. Excellent scope to use initiative and be pro-active. Full involvement and responsibility with extensive client liaison, organising corporate events and ensuring the smooth running of the office. Call Emma Silverman.

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

WINNING ALL THE PRIZES
Package of £30,000
Don't settle for second best. A team of top rated investment bankers require a PA to run their office. They are a close knit team and need you to be totally involved in the running of their high profile deals; liaising with bankers, heads of industry and governments world wide. How ambitious are you? Call Emily Aldrich.

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

PERSONAL ASSISTANT IN DESIGN PR
to £21,000 + Bens
This PR design company is looking for a young PA who enjoys working in a small dynamic environment. An easy going 'punchy' team player would fit in perfectly. If you enjoy project work, setting up systems and client contact and you want to move out of banking this would be the perfect role for you. Call Alex Gaze

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

PA/GROUP SECRETARY PUBLIC RELATIONS £19,000 + BUPA

Have you an interest in PR? Wanting an involved role? Superb opportunity for a well educated Secretary 20+ to pro-actively assist three Directors in International Department handling key medical clients. High admin content, organising travel, hotels, currency, etc. extensive international telephone contact with clients in European language useful as is previous medical or drug experience. Windows/Excel. A fabulous chance to join a fabulous company! Please call Sandy or fax CV to:

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DP
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

RECRUITMENT MANAGER INT'L PUBLIC RELATIONS CO TO £30,000 + PACKAGE

Our prestigious International office are seeking an experienced Recruitment Manager to join small RIR function. It is essential that the successful applicant will be multi-lingual and have a minimum of four years' experience in recruitment and selection gained in either an HR Department of a large City Service Company or within the media industry. They will also need to be a dynamic self-starter with excellent team-personal skills and the ability to liaise at all levels within the organisation. Degree standard of education. IPD qualified preferred. An excellent career move! Please call Sandy or fax CV to:

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DP
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

PA/SEC TO DIRECTOR POLITICAL PR COMPANY £18,000

A professional, experienced Secretary with an interest in the political scene is sought by Senior Director of small W1 PR Company specialising in top profile clients, including the political scene. Main skills required are: AI secretarial ability, maturity, common sense, sense of humour, together with a cool head and a calm disposition. Some experience of staff, plus liaising with outside contacts. Lovely, varied role! Please call Sandy or fax CV to:

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DP
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

PA/SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN FASHION HOUSE £25,000 + SUPERB PERKS!

Job of the year! Top Fashion House seeks a top PA 25-35 to work alongside Chairman in superb surroundings. We are looking for a really confident, professional, friendly, fast thinking PA with excellent secretarial skills. 100% office based. Main skills required are: AI secretarial ability, maturity, common sense, sense of humour, together with a cool head and a calm disposition. Some experience of staff, plus liaising with outside contacts. Lovely, varied role! Please call Sandy or fax CV to:

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DP
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

THE RECRUITMENT BUSINESS

The Recruitment Business specialises in recruiting administrative, secretarial, DTP and Apple Mac staff. We have over 30 years recruitment experience and you won't find a more professional dedicated and down to earth team. For a personal approach, professional advice and honest answers call Bernadette Sturley on:

0171-405 2340

Marketing Secretary W1

£15,000 + Bens
Large accountancy firm need an experienced Secretary to work within their busy marketing dept. You will need 2 yrs exp in a sec role with a high admin content 45 wpm typing + W4W. Powerpoint and Excel useful. Training given.

Temps
£6.00 - 9.00 p.h.
We are expecting a busy summer and need temps with experience of the following: Typing 50 wpm/Switchboard any WP package and a flexible approach.

CONTACT SIAN COUCHMAN
TEL: 0171-405 2340
FAX: 0171-831 2999

SECRETARY/PA

Search & Selection Team
Charity Recruitment is a dynamic, friendly recruitment consultancy based in its own Victorian house in ECL. The Search & Selection team handles recruitment campaigns for chief executives and directors of charities. This is exciting and demanding work requiring a high level of professionalism from all members of the team.

We seek an experienced, committed PA to support the senior consultants, someone with high standards of presentation and administration, a confident and courteous telephone manner, flexibility and humour. Knowledge of recruitment or the voluntary sector would be an advantage.

You will preferably be educated to A level, with secretarial training and at least three years' office experience. As well as accurate 50 wpm typing you will have an orderly approach, be able to organise complex timetables, and use your initiative.

Everyone's role is valued at Charity Recruitment, and we offer the chance for participation along with the prospect of profit share, four weeks holiday, and some flexibility on hours. Please send your CV with a covering letter marked 'Personal and Confidential' to Ms Olga Johnson, Chief Executive, Charity Recruitment, 40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RN. Closing date 30 May 1997.

Charity Recruitment Ltd. 1996

MARKETING ADMIN SEC £16K + EXC BENS

Exc opp. for a young sec to join a top Int'l co. within a lively Marketing dept. Supporting an "Executive" team, you'll be involved in organising seminars/events, liaising with Ad/PR agencies + journalists, administration + distribution of publications, preparing presentations and general sec duties. You'll need to be bright, on the ball, able to take on responsibility to cope in a multi-task environment. 55wpm WP + yrs sec exp ess.

NEXT EMPLOYMENT
TEL: 0171 287 3664 FAX: 0171 287 3564

Multilingual Crème

Trilingual PA FRENCH + ITALIAN Excellent salary + bens

Dynamic and highly successful European Business Development Director in the Arts sector requires a trilingual PA with the triple X factor. His is an extremely high profile and you must therefore enjoy the daily challenge of dealing with VIP's throughout Europe and taking sole responsibility for organising entertainment and events. Immaculate presentation and all the poise of a professional dedicated PA. Opportunity of a lifetime! Please call Jennifer Ross on 0171 390 2997.

Crone Corkill Multilingual Recruitment

APPOINTMENTS Bi-LANGUAGE

GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES BANKING MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY PUBLISHING

£16-21,000 + Superb Benefits
Our clients are looking for top graduate calibre candidates with excellent secretarial skills (min 50wpm typing and advanced Word for Windows). If you are searching for more than a run of the mill secretarial role, with genuine career prospects and are looking for the opportunity to make your 'mark', in probably the best organisations in London - phone now!

SCANDINAVIAN TEAM £21,000 + Banking Bens

PA to Managing Director. West End based. Glamorous location. Classic PA role acting as the 'right hand' to your boss. Truly people to organise and work with! High language content (fluent) and shorthand essential.

FRENCH AND GERMAN BANKING

c. £ High + Banking Bens
Working as part of an international team of 5. Providing full administrative support. Confident communicator with a superb interpersonal skills as you will be dealing with international clients on a regular basis.

HAMBURG GRADUATE SALES EXECUTIVE DM 60,000 + Generous Comm. + Car

A truly one off opportunity for a bright, ambitious graduate with flair and personality. Fluent German. One of the most prestigious publishing houses in Europe. Lots of travel and face to face presentations/meetings with high profile clients. Ideally someone with some relevant sales experience.

FRENCH SPEAKING RECEPTIONIST
£15,000 + Benefits
This is a classic front-office role and would suit a French speaker (with excellent English) who enjoys direct client contact. You must have relevant experience and be polished and friendly.

Tel: 0171-355 1975/0171-734 3380
Fax: 0171-499 0568

LANGUAGE MATTERS

FRENCH CITY STARS
Leading bank needs two top W1 sec roles to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

GERMAN LEGAL
The Partner of a leading law firm is looking for a top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

ROOM AT THE TOP, GERMAN
A top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

PUBLISHING SECRETARY
A top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

INTERNATIONAL PA
A top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

INTERNATIONAL PA
A top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

INTERNATIONAL PA
A top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

INTERNATIONAL PA
A top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

INTERNATIONAL PA
A top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

INTERNATIONAL PA
A top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

INTERNATIONAL PA
A top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

INTERNATIONAL PA
A top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

INTERNATIONAL PA
A top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

MARLOW Multi-Lingual Researcher

Our client is a UK based, highly successful executive search company focusing on the IT industry. They are looking for a high calibre individual to assist with their expansion into Europe. You will need to be fluent in English and spoken levels in one or more of the following: French, Italian, German or Dutch with English to mother-tongue standard. This opportunity represents a genuine career move for the right individual with a strong sense of motivation and a proven track record. Please call Jennifer Ross on 0171 390 2997.

PA TO ENTREPRENEUR
SW7
Building opportunity for a dynamic, proactive and detail-oriented person who is looking for variety and advancement. Reply to Box No 4768.

EXCEPTIONAL PA
£20,000
Golden opportunity to join a top W1 Co. in a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

PA TO ENTREPRENEUR
SW7
Building opportunity for a dynamic, proactive and detail-oriented person who is looking for variety and advancement. Reply to Box No 4768.

EXCEPTIONAL PA
£20,000
Golden opportunity to join a top W1 Co. in a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

PA TO ENTREPRENEUR
SW7
Building opportunity for a dynamic, proactive and detail-oriented person who is looking for variety and advancement. Reply to Box No 4768.

EXCEPTIONAL PA
£20,000
Golden opportunity to join a top W1 Co. in a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

PA TO ENTREPRENEUR
SW7
Building opportunity for a dynamic, proactive and detail-oriented person who is looking for variety and advancement. Reply to Box No 4768.

EXCEPTIONAL PA
£20,000
Golden opportunity to join a top W1 Co. in a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

PA TO ENTREPRENEUR
SW7
Building opportunity for a dynamic, proactive and detail-oriented person who is looking for variety and advancement. Reply to Box No 4768.

EXCEPTIONAL PA
£20,000
Golden opportunity to join a top W1 Co. in a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

PA TO ENTREPRENEUR
SW7
Building opportunity for a dynamic, proactive and detail-oriented person who is looking for variety and advancement. Reply to Box No 4768.

EXCEPTIONAL PA
£20,000
Golden opportunity to join a top W1 Co. in a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

COBY PHILIPS Senior Secretary £23K

Has been a SVP in one of the largest Global Investment Co. in the UK. Now looking for a Senior Secretary to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

CONFERENCE
ADMIN £15K + 36 days holiday + more.
Get involved in a conference administration with this specialist publishing and training co. You will be computer literate, with 40+ wpm, W4W and be happy with a high typing content. Tel: 0171 287 2044 Fax: 0171 287 3717 MIDDLETON JEFFERS

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
£22K
European office in Amsterdam. Top VP responsible for development and marketing of international operations. A varied role including research, worldwide liaison and some ad-hoc support for a multi-office team. Tel: 0171 287 2044 Fax: 0171 287 3717 MIDDLETON JEFFERS

RECEPTIONIST
£16K
Busy international consultancy seeks a smart, polished individual with an excellent telephone manner who is calm under pressure. Reception or customer service exp. an advantage but not essential. Tel: 0171 287 2044 Fax: 0171 287 3717 MIDDLETON JEFFERS

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY
£13,000 BAKER STREET
Vibrant Sales team role - ideal for those with the personality to match the needs of the admin. needs of the Sales Property Firm, from preparing property contracts on W4W right through to handling incoming calls, your committed approach could well be rewarded with promotion to Consultancy level.

DIRECTORS PA
to £18,000 BAKER STREET
Looking for more than the 9-5? Your initiative & drive will prove an integral aspect to the success of this expanding Corporate Events Firm, as you'll run the office in the boss's, often, absence. You'll need both energy & resilience as the team steadily grows bigger, but you'll gain a unique opportunity to hold a position of real authority.

JUNIOR SECRETARY
to £14,000 PADDINGTON
A wonderfully varied role, combining both Secretarial & Receptionist duties. Team work is essential, as is a clear, confident telephone manner & good basic typing skills. In return you'll gain invaluable on-the-job training in a warm, friendly environment.

TEAM SECRETARY
to £16,000 BAYSWATER
Acting as the key contact point for three workaholic Media Marketing managers, this is a wonderful opportunity to secure a vibrant, challenging career post. Organisational skills will prove crucial as this varied role will encompass all aspects of Secretarial support & client entertainment. Superb benefits package.

Call DANIELLE or REBEKAH now on 0171 935 7248. We're positive we can really make a difference.
111 Baker Street, London, W1M 1FE.

Office Angels

GREEN & KERRY
Mature Proactive Sec, £21,000
Dynamic City team focusing on environmental projects seeks a top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

LOVE & TATE
We are looking for a confident, experienced person with excellent skills in shorthand/WP to take charge of the office of a very busy director in a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
We are looking for a confident, experienced person with excellent skills in shorthand/WP to take charge of the office of a very busy director in a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

INTERNATIONALLY OPERATING, PRIVATE INVESTOR
offering a challenging & very well-paid job to a workaholic. Reply to Box No 4768.

TEMPS
needed
RIGHT NOW!
TALISMAN Secretarial Ltd.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

Recruit

Employment Services
The basic name for exceptional recruitment.

A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
Temporary Consultant
Private Health Care, Personalised Training Programme
Are you a self-starter with strong sales and interpersonal skills, who wants the freedom to run your own initiative and take the initiative? If you are, then we have an excellent opportunity for you to move their career in the right direction with one of Britain's fastest growing recruitment consultancies.

You will have 12 months contractual recruitment experience preferably in the West End, you will be a high achiever who enjoys working in a healthy, dynamic environment. Working in a team, you will be responsible for building a strong relationship with our prestigious portfolio of clients through excellent client development, our close links to the City of London.

The West End team are a highly dedicated and ambitious team, who like to work and play hard. If you feel you have the drive and determination to become a part of our team, then contact: VICKI SPENCER, OPERATIONS MANAGER
WORK: 0171 491 8112
HOME: 0171 491 2929

Recruit

Employment Services
The basic name for exceptional recruitment.

A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
PA to Finance Director £20K, W1
Season Ticket Loan, 4 Weeks Holiday
Smart, confident and outgoing person to look after this busy, professional Finance Director of a major international investment company. Knowledge of Finance, MS Office, W4W with excellent audio and copy skills.

For further information contact: Kathryn Bennett-Thames
Assistant to Executive Director
£17,500K
Uniform Provided, Life Assurance, Non-Cont Pension, 100% £2.00 per day L.V.s, 5 week holiday

A true professional is required for this demanding and exciting role. You will need strong interpersonal/communication skills and an unflappable nature. Knowledge of Word-perfect & Windows, Excel & 50 wpm copy skills.

For further information contact: Lynne Marshall-Denise
Secretary/Receptionist £16K, W1
Holiday, Early finish on Friday, 5 week holiday
Excellent opportunity to join this expanding Publishing Co. Secretarial skills coupled with a professional image and clear telephone manner will ensure this challenging and rewarding role.

For further information contact: Eve Shadish
6-8 Janney Street, London, W1M 5PE
TEL: 0171 499 5113, FAX: 0171 499 5115

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT...?

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY £13,000 BAKER STREET
Vibrant Sales team role - ideal for those with the personality to match the needs of the admin. needs of the Sales Property Firm, from preparing property contracts on W4W right through to handling incoming calls, your committed approach could well be rewarded with promotion to Consultancy level.

DIRECTORS PA
to £18,000 BAKER STREET
Looking for more than the 9-5? Your initiative & drive will prove an integral aspect to the success of this expanding Corporate Events Firm, as you'll run the office in the boss's, often, absence. You'll need both energy & resilience as the team steadily grows bigger, but you'll gain a unique opportunity to hold a position of real authority.

JUNIOR SECRETARY
to £14,000 PADDINGTON
A wonderfully varied role, combining both Secretarial & Receptionist duties. Team work is essential, as is a clear, confident telephone manner & good basic typing skills. In return you'll gain invaluable on-the-job training in a warm, friendly environment.

TEAM SECRETARY
to £16,000 BAYSWATER
Acting as the key contact point for three workaholic Media Marketing managers, this is a wonderful opportunity to secure a vibrant, challenging career post. Organisational skills will prove crucial as this varied role will encompass all aspects of Secretarial support & client entertainment. Superb benefits package.

Call DANIELLE or REBEKAH now on 0171 935 7248. We're positive we can really make a difference.
111 Baker Street, London, W1M 1FE.

Office Angels

GREEN & KERRY
Mature Proactive Sec, £21,000
Dynamic City team focusing on environmental projects seeks a top W1 sec role to support the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be a multi-lingual, confident, proactive, and highly motivated individual. Please send your CV to: 0171 390 2997.

LOVE & TATE
We are looking for a confident, experienced person with excellent skills in shorthand/WP to take charge of the office of a very busy director in a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
We are looking for a confident, experienced person with excellent skills in shorthand/WP to take charge of the office of a very busy director in a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

INTERNATIONALLY OPERATING, PRIVATE INVESTOR
offering a challenging & very well-paid job to a workaholic. Reply to Box No 4768.

TEMPS
needed
RIGHT NOW!
TALISMAN Secretarial Ltd.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME
ADMINISTRATIVE CREME is a leading international consultancy. Reply to Box No 4768.

EQUESTRIANISM

Windsor switch dims cup hopes

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

THE Royal Windsor Horse Show, which begins today in its traditional and spectacular setting in Home Park, at the foot of Windsor Castle, has assumed an added significance as the host of the British round of the Nations Cup.

Showing classes, dressage, international driving and showjumping make up a hectic schedule over the next five days. The show, which has attracted a record 3,138 entries, cost £1 million to put on and will, in the words of Michael Bullen, the chairman, be "the biggest and best horse show in the world".

In contrast to Hickstead, which lost its chance to stage the Nations Cup because of a lack of sponsorship, Windsor is enjoying a resurgence in popularity. Three leading sponsors, Hildron, Land Rover and Samsung, have joined long-time supporters such as Harrods and Beneficial. More than £200,000 has been invested in improving facilities, including the provision of two extra rings.

The acquisition of the Nations Cup could not have been more timely. BCM Worldwide, the show's co-organisers, was intending to bring back international showjumping this year after 24 years. When the Nations Cup became available six weeks ago, it seized the opportunity.

The competition, which involves Ireland, Germany, Belgium, Britain and Holland, takes place on Sunday afternoon. Britain, having failed to reach the second round in the opening Nations Cup event at La Baule in France last weekend, is taking no chances.

Four top riders — Nick Skelton, Michael Whitaker, Geoff Billington and Robert Smith — make up the team that will attempt to win the Prince of Wales Cup for the third successive year.

Skelton, who had the only clear round in La Baule on Tinkat's Boy, will ride either Showtime, his Olympic mare, or Zalta, who is fully recovered from the colic that kept him out of the World Cup event in Sweden two weeks ago. Whitaker is trying out Virtual Village Ashley in his first Nations Cup. Billington has Virtual Village It's On, on which he had the only double clear last year, and Smith relies on Tees Hanauer, the winner of the Olympia World Cup qualifier in December. John Whitaker, runner-up in the World Cup, asked to be excused in order to give Welham a rest.

For Ronnie Massarella, now in his 20th year as team manager, a win on Sunday is "doubly important" after the disappointment last weekend, but with Ireland and Holland fielding strong teams, he does not underestimate the task.

"Although it's on home ground it'll be strange home ground," he said. "Hickstead suited our riders whereas Windsor is an unknown quantity. The arena is very different."

The organisers are trying hard to minimise the difference, at least in terms of the going. In recent years the state of the main arena, which has to cope with the rigours of the King's Troop display, has been a contentious issue with the riders. This year, for the first time, Windsor is employing an outside contractor to ensure that the ground is in the best condition.

Prize-money over the five days totals £150,000 with £40,000 going to the Grand Prix winner on Friday evening. Tomorrow sees the first of the four international team trials, which have been introduced by the British Show Jumping Association to try to produce a fairer selection process for the European championships this summer. A league table will be produced after the last trial in July using the best three results gained by each combination.

The Harrods International Driving Grand Prix, in which the Duke of Edinburgh competes in the pony teams section and George Bowman attempts a ninth consecutive win in the horse team event, also begins tomorrow.

"Although it's on home ground it'll be strange home ground," he said. "Hickstead suited our riders whereas Windsor is an unknown quantity. The arena is very different."

The organisers are trying hard to minimise the difference, at least in terms of the going. In recent years the state of the main arena, which has to cope with the rigours of the King's Troop display, has been a contentious issue with the riders. This year, for the first time, Windsor is employing an outside contractor to ensure that the ground is in the best condition.

Prize-money over the five days totals £150,000 with £40,000 going to the Grand Prix winner on Friday evening. Tomorrow sees the first of the four international team trials, which have been introduced by the British Show Jumping Association to try to produce a fairer selection process for the European championships this summer. A league table will be produced after the last trial in July using the best three results gained by each combination.

The Harrods International Driving Grand Prix, in which the Duke of Edinburgh competes in the pony teams section and George Bowman attempts a ninth consecutive win in the horse team event, also begins tomorrow.



Graf leaps to conquer Rubin while making a successful comeback in the German Open in Berlin, after recovering from a knee injury

TENNIS

Sampras put out in the first round

PETE SAMPRAS, the No 1 seed, was knocked out of the Italian Open in the first round yesterday, going down 7-6, 6-4 to Jim Courier on a historic day in Rome.

A few hours after Michael Chang, the world No 2, crashed out at the hands of Hernan Gumeni, of Argentina, the world No 1 also found himself on the Foro Italico's centre court scrap heap.

It was the first time in the history of the tournament, which goes back to 1930, that the two top seeds have gone out in the first round.

Sampras broke Courier in the first game but Courier, who won the tournament in 1992 and 1993, immediately broke back and it took a tie-break to separate them.

However, the second set was a very different affair, with Courier breaking Sampras for 4-1 before serving out for 5-1.

Sampras, who has won three tournaments this year but lost his first match of the clay court season at Monte Carlo last month, finally clicked into gear to serve out for 5-2.

But it was all too late. Sampras sent a lob too long for match point and he could only return Courier's powerful drive into the net.

A rusty Steffi Graf, making her comeback from a knee injury yesterday, struggled past Chanda Rubin in three sets to reach the third round of the German Open in Berlin. Graf, battling to control her shaky strokes throughout the match, lost eight of the first nine points before recovering to beat the American 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

"I just never found the right shot," said Graf, the top seed and defending champion.

Botham left out of tour party

LIAM BOTHAM, the West Hartlepool centre, has missed out on the England Under-21 rugby union tour to Australia that starts next month, despite figuring on the fringes of the side this season.

The son of Ian Botham, the former England cricket all-rounder, can now concentrate on his cricket with Windhill, the Bradford League side.

Chris Murphy, Botham's West Hartlepool team-mate, is the favourite to captain the powerful squad. The captain has not yet been appointed, but Murphy, a left-hand second-row forward, performed with distinction during this season's home international series.

Full tour party, page 45

□ Sailing: Great Britain's only Grade 1 match racing event, the Hoya Royal Weymouth Cup, got underway in the western Solent yesterday with a high-class field, including ten skippers in the top 20 in the world rankings.

Leading the charge for Britain was Chris Law, ranked No 6 in the world, who started strongly with three wins out of four races in ideal sailing conditions.

□ Rugby League: Alex Murphy, 38, stood down last night as the director of football at Warrington Wolves, but he is to remain at Warrington in a new commercial and promotional role.

His move follows the appointment last month of Darryl Van de Velde as coach after John Dorahy parted company with the club.

□ Boxing: Lennox Lewis's World Boxing Council heavyweight title defence against Henry Akimov will be staged at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, on July 2. The deal with Don King, Akimov's promoter, and HBO, the American cable television company backing Lewis, was signed on Monday night.

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts
1	Jam Sandwich XI (R. Ray)	1444	25	Sigtry Braxton (M. Trower)	1253	51	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1212	75	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1177
2	G. D. G. (G. D. G.)	1341	26	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1250	52	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1211	76	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1176
3	Three Lobs (P. Johnson)	1332	27	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1249	53	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1210	77	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1175
4	Two Batters Short (R. Ray)	1317	28	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1241	54	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1209	78	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1174
5	Alwyn's Army (J. Gurney)	1310	29	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1239	55	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1208	79	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1173
6	Five Lobs (P. Johnson)	1303	30	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1237	56	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1207	80	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1172
7	Savanna Hope (A. Hall)	1299	31	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1236	57	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1206	81	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1171
8	S. F. C. (M. G. G.)	1298	32	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1235	58	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1205	82	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1170
9	Francis' Follies (M. Cookcroft)	1290	33	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1234	59	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1204	83	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1169
10	Doody's XI (J. Gurney)	1286	34	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1233	60	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1203	84	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1168
11	The Yardley XI (M. G. G.)	1285	35	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1232	61	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1202	85	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1167
12	Hoppy Hoppers (A. Eades)	1285	36	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1231	62	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1201	86	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1166
13	Sam's XI (M. G. G.)	1284	37	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1230	63	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1200	87	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1165
14	Flaming Blades (P. Johnson)	1277	38	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1229	64	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1199	88	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1164
15	Rossmore Raiders (P. Johnson)	1277	39	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1228	65	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1198	89	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1163
16	Team 1 (J. Gurney)	1276	40	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1227	66	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1197	90	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1162
17	Team 1 (J. Gurney)	1275	41	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1226	67	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1196	91	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1161
18	Team 1 (J. Gurney)	1274	42	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1225	68	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1195	92	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1160
19	Team 1 (J. Gurney)	1273	43	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1224	69	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1194	93	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1159
20	Team 1 (J. Gurney)	1272	44	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1223	70	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1193	94	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1158
21	Team 1 (J. Gurney)	1271	45	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1222	71	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1192	95	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1157
22	Team 1 (J. Gurney)	1270	46	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1221	72	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1191	96	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1156
23	Team 1 (J. Gurney)	1269	47	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1220	73	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1190	97	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1155
24	Team 1 (J. Gurney)	1268	48	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1219	74	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1189	98	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1154
25	Team 1 (J. Gurney)	1267	49	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1218	75	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1188	99	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1153
26	Team 1 (J. Gurney)	1266	50	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1217	76	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1187	100	Stoke City XI (J. Smith)	1152

INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

The scores in brackets are the points scored in the last week; the other scores are the cumulative points scored since the start of the season. The figures include all matches completed by May 11. Overseas players are shown in bold type. Rising stars in <i>italic</i> .														
Player (No)	Runs	Wickets	CS	Total	Player (No)	Runs	Wickets	CS	Total	Player (No)	Runs	Wickets	CS	Total
S. Hutton (365)	118	0	0	118	W. A. Jones (181)	0	0	0	0	R. D. Stamp (278)	1	1	0	101
P. Johnson (385)	118	0	0	118	N. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0	P. M. Smith (271)	0	0	0	80
M. Keach (387)	48	0	0	48	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0	J. P. Taylor (271)	7	7	0	67
W. S. Kitchener (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0	P. M. Smith (271)	0	0	0	78
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	C. M. Jones (181)	0	0	0	0	S. D. Lee (271)	12	12	0	75
R. A. Kitchener (388)	67	0	0	67	S. Young (181)	0	0	0	0	S. K. Warr (271)	0	0	0	60
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	A. N. Jones (181)	0	0	0	0	W. A. Jones (181)	12	12	0	60
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0	N. F. Warr (271)	0	0	0	60
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0	J. Wood (271)	0	0	0	60
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
W. G. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
O. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. L. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
J. B. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
N. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
M. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
G. J. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0	0	0					
R. A. Jones (388)	67	0	0	67	R. Bailey (181)	0	0</							

CRICKET

Atherton's chance to recapture lost form

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

AS OPPONENTS around the world will testify, Michael Atherton is at his most dangerous in adversity. Today, then, may see his overdue return to form. He must bat on an Old Trafford pitch destined to start green, the first England team of the summer is about to be chosen and some malcontents are saying that he should not be in it.

It will come as a surprise to many that Atherton considers he is on good terms with his batting — even though the England captain concedes that an aggregate of 95 runs in seven innings for Lancashire this season is not a ringing endorsement of his form.

"I need one good innings," he said yesterday. This is precisely what Mark Taylor was saying 24 hours earlier. The difference is that the Australia captain has been misfiring, over a lengthy period, in Test cricket, while Atherton's lean sequence only concerns county games.

"I do feel in pretty good nick," Atherton said. "There would be a problem if I didn't, with the internationals so close, but as it is I have no doubt at all that I should be in the one-day side."

County form at the start of our season can often mean very little. Most of the England guys have struggled a bit and, speaking for myself, I don't feel I have properly got into the season yet. I've only played one first-class innings, which is a regular problem with our county programme at this time of year."

Atherton is aware of the lobby convinced he should stand down from the Texaco Trophy games, and perhaps from the England one-day side altogether, but he does not agree. "I haven't played well in one-day cricket since the World Cup, but it's not so long ago that I was our most consistent batsman in this form of the game. I know I can still do the job."

Technically, selection is out of Atherton's hands and he will not be present when

David Graveney, Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting gather in London on Saturday to debate the one-day party. He will, though, be in telephone contact and has been assured that he will retain some input.

There is no real doubt that Atherton will continue to open the batting in the Texaco games. No doubt, either, that the selectors would be reassured by a decent score from him today, when Nottinghamshire are the visitors. Lancashire expect to welcome back Mike Watkinson, the captain, and Glen Chapple.

Nick Knight would normally be an automatic choice, at least in limited-overs cricket, as Atherton's opening partner for England, but the finger he broke so badly in New Zealand has complicated the thinking. He will be closely watched at Edgbaston today, when he is due to captain Warwickshire in an intriguing championship fixture against Yorkshire.

Graeme Hick is another whose one-day selection was once a formality. After starting the season as badly as Atherton — although he made 40 against Lancashire on Monday — Hick intends to open the batting for Worcestershire in the Parks today. Whether the selectors will be seduced by even a double-century against the students of Oxford is another matter.

Mark Ramprakash, also on the fringes of an international recall, is fit again after a hamstring strain and plays for Middlesex against Derbyshire, again without Dominic Cork — one player who certainly will not be named by England on Sunday morning.

Surrey, the title favourites, will be up against David Lawrence on the Oval pitch he always enjoyed in his pomp, while the match of the round could be at Canterbury, where Glamorgan are the visitors. After two virtual washouts, the championship is in urgent need of a lift, rather like Atherton's batting figures.



Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, stretches himself as the touring party begins its preparations for the defence of the Ashes at Lord's yesterday

Lord's retains all its charms bar one

Even when it is gripped by the wet fingers of an early English summer, Lord's is still something else, as the Australian cricketers having nets there this week cannot fail to realise. The rebuilt Grandstand is not ready, and there are two vast, unsightly legs of stone at the Nursery End that will eventually support the new media centre, but even in its incompleteness the ground is majestic.

Of course it is. Lord's is unique. It has played a neat part in the social history of the world's greatest capital city, and continues to do so because it constantly renews itself. When, ten years ago, Michael Hopkins designed the Mound Stand elevation he got a bad press. Who now, looking at this village marquee in the heart of the city, which floods the ground with light, would deny that it looks absolutely natural?

The ground has absorbed all sorts of changes down the years, many of them in the past two decades. If you look at old pictures of Lord's it is evident that, in every respect save one, the place has never looked better. Come June, when the second Test starts,

this small chunk of St John's Wood will resemble a veritable Arcadia.

In every respect save one, I said, and it is not difficult to guess the one. Today, when the Tavern outside the Grace Gates reopens after another change of hands, it is time to honour the old one, the proper one, underneath the stand that still bears its name, and ceased to exist in any proper sense in 1986. That was when the public concourse was bricked in, and seats installed. They remain there, unloved and largely unused.

The Tavern was the "lung" of Lord's. It was where the world went to argue, drink and do daft things. It was frequented by poets and commoners, retired gents and students on the sly, men from the City and women of low morals; vicars, tinkers and, even, the odd cricketer. It was the most vivid place on the ground.

In his marvellous book, *The Best Loved Game*, a wide-ranging impression of the 1978 season, Geoffrey Moorhouse recalled how Tavern-side spectators at the Eton v Harrow match failed to recognise the famous cricketer among them: Keith Ross

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Line and Length

Miller! Well, Miller will be over again soon from Australia and will no doubt admire his portrait in the Long Room and enjoy a drink in the MCC committee room, but I imagine he would rather nurse a pint of something disgusting in the Tavern. Nobody ever went there for the quality of the ale.

Until 1967, the Tavern was actually a pub you could enter from the street and where, as Ian Nairn wrote, for the price of a pint you could enjoy a view of the most famous meadow in the kingdom. On the other side of it, in summer, was that wonderfully democratic concourse. Part of the fun was not knowing who would be there. The cast changed every day.

It was where the distinguished novelist, V. S. Naipaul, savoured up on West Indies supporters at the 1963 Test, and got a very good piece out of it, where Richard Burton, joshed by actor friends for lingering at the cricket when he should have been preparing for that night's performance at the Old Vic, replied "Oh, it's only Iago" (the second longest role in *Shakespeare*). It was where you found a comradeship in sport that cannot exist any more.

There is a lot of talk these days about "the people", and now that Tony Banks is the Minister for Sport there should be no end of bogus

populism. But the Tavern really was about people, not in a grim proletarian way, but in the way that people can change a life by imposing upon it however briefly. It was rowdy from time to time but there was never any bad behaviour. It was a jolly place.

The seats crept in there for one-day finals and, eventually, MCC decided that the demand for Test match tickets was so great that it had to accommodate its spinners somewhere, and that some where happened to be the Tavern. Then, that Hillsborough, and the Taylor Report, although it is difficult to see how the new King's Hall is a place like the Tavern, where spectators could never be at risk, being so close to the field.

Come on, Roger Knight, you're the MCC secretary. Rip out those seats and restore one of the ground's great original features. There is more to Lord's than the rights of MCC members to speak at only one and there is a glorious opportunity to bring back something that is badly missed.

Kent gain point and secure top billing in last eight

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

FEWER than five overs' play were possible at Bristol in the Benson and Hedges Cup match between Gloucestershire and Kent yesterday before more heavy rain descended on an already damp ground and the game was abandoned.

Curiously, the result pleased both clubs. Kent took the point that guaranteed that they finished top of group C and secured a home quarter-final, while Gloucestershire's point lifted them above Sussex. On the day of the quarter-finals, May 21, they will have the privilege of entertaining the Australians in Bristol for a three-day match.

Gloucestershire were making impressive progress before the rain. They carried their overnight score of 25 without loss to 45 in three overs, with Monte Lynch adding three more fours as Kent called on their medium pace pair, Balham and Fleming. Tony Wright also glanced a boundary off Fleming, but was bowled when he essayed an off drive to an inswinger. Gloucestershire were 50 for one when the rain came.

The Scottish cricket authorities were left counting the cost of the weather after rain washed out the match against Nottinghamshire without a ball being bowled, despite their efforts to change the venue.

The game was due to take place at Titwood in Glasgow and the Scottish Cricket Union (SCU) spent around £3,000 making the ground ready. When it became obvious over the weekend that the ground was too wet, the game was switched to Grange Cricket Club, in Edinburgh, with a further outlay of around £1,500, but the rain followed.

"It's rather annoying because we are a pretty impecunious union," Alex Ritchie, the SCU general manager, said. "We probably wouldn't have made much money on the gate, which didn't make it worth insuring, but you know, people always drink beer." The SCU has insured the one-day match against the Australians at Grange on July 12.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This was another hand played by John Probst, who did the right thing on yesterday's hand. My main contact with him is in his role as a tournament director, telling me cheerfully that I have five minutes to finish three boards. He said he thought he made an "unlucky expert" play on this hand.

Dealer North North-South game IMPs

♠ A J	♥ A K J 6 5	♦ A K	♣ A K
♠ 10 7 6 5 2	♥ 10 8	♦ 10 8	♣ 10 8
♠ 7	♥ 9	♦ 9	♣ 9
♠ 10 8 3	♥ 10 8	♦ 10 8	♣ 10 8
♠ Q 8 7 4	♥ 10 8	♦ 10 8	♣ 10 8

Contract: Six Diamonds by South. Lead: seven of hearts

With the ten of hearts being such a useful card. Six No-trumps is probably the best North-South contract. However, Six Diamonds looks sound enough. Probst won the heart lead in dummy and, showing he knows his safety plays, continued with a diamond to the king and a low diamond. When West followed low he put in the nine. Unfortunately East won the queen, and gave his partner a heart ruff.

What do you think of declarer's play? If avoiding two diamond losers was the only danger in the hand, then what Probst did was correct. He was unlucky that hearts were 5-1. But there is more in the hand than that. Say after king and another diamond West shows out. Now East has Q 10 of diamonds, and declarer is by no means home. Even if he had unblocked the clubs be-

fore playing diamonds, after taking a club ruff the blockage in spades would still be a problem. Perhaps better after this start would be to play for the hearts to come in after one ruff. But it still needs a favourable distribution.

I think the safety play is a delusion — best is just to play the ace of diamonds and a diamond to the jack if East follows low on the second round. Now even if the diamonds are 4-1 declarer is in control. This line loses two diamonds to West if he started with Q 10 x x, but note that if he had that holding he could have made it awkward on Probst's line of play by splitting on the second round. An un-safety play I think.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

England on top

After seven rounds of the European team championship in Pula, Croatia, England dominates with 19 points out of a possible 28. The England team leads by a clear two-point margin over Croatia, Russia, Armenia and Germany.

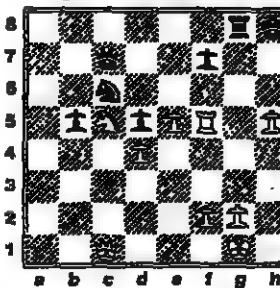
In the seventh round, England slaughtered Hungary 3-1. Here is Michael Adams' win in the match against Armenia from the sixth round.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Smbat Lputian
European team championship Pula, May 1997

French Defence

1	a4	a6
2	d4	c5
3	e5	c5
4	c3	Nc6
5	Nf3	Ng6
6	Bd3	Nf5
7	cxd4	exd5
8	Bxd5	Bd6
9	Nc3	Qe5
10	Ne2	h5
11	h4	Qe5
12	Kf1	Bd7
13	Kg1	Rc8
14	Nf4	g5
15	a3	Qb6
16	b4	a5
17	Rb1	axb4
18	axb4	Ne7
19	b5	Rc4
20	Rb3	Rb4
21	Rd4	Bb4
22	Rg3	Kg7
23	Ng6	Kf6
24	Bd2	Qb5
25	h5	Bd2
26	Ne2	g5
27	Rb3	Qd6
28	Qb1	b5
29	Ra3	Ra8
30	Qa1	Qb7

Diagram of final position



England women

After a fine start the England women's team has fallen back in the race for medals following a crushing 2-0 defeat by Romania. Current scores are as follows: Georgia 11/14; Romania 9/9; England, Russia and Greece 9.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ABANNITION
a. Absent-mindedness
b. Banishment
c. Perversity

ATRAMENT
a. Ink
b. The end gable
c. An overcoat

BUMBARD
a. A bomb
b. A bee
c. A cavalry sergeant

BASTO
a. Ace of clubs
b. A cudgel
c. Enough!

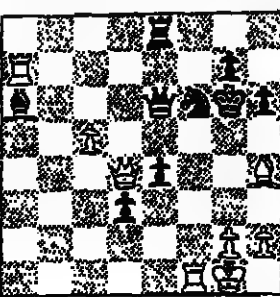
Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Genius — Timman, Agon Simultaneous 1997. This position is from a game played in a tournament contested between humans and computers. Computers are weak in strategic areas, but very strong in tactical situations. How did Genius demonstrate its tactical skill here?

Solution on page 46



DON'T
GET LEFT
ON THE
PLATFORM.

See page 35 for details.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

Home Ground (BBC2), a new series giving regional documentaries a wider audience. This was the terrifically positive story told first-hand, of a woman facing a dreadful choice – whether to have her two healthy breasts surgically removed or to do nothing and face a genetically determined, 85-90 per cent chance of developing breast cancer.

Actually, for Julia that was the easy part ("it's never really felt like a choice") the problem was what sort of reconstructive surgery she should have afterwards – if any. We were there as she received a mountain of letters from all kinds of advice: we were there when she found a surgeon whose aim was that she would pass "the tennis club shower test" and we were there when – oh happy day – the operation delivered just about everything the surgeon had promised. There were more, more for tennis? There was indeed.

Matthew Bond



until somebody costed the alternatives in Eastern Europe and the Far East and discovered that Wales was surprisingly cost-effective. Over to you, Michael.

I mean, over to you Prince Michael, sir. Prince Michael of Kent, I suspect, would never have quite made the grade as a *Nation-wide* presenter. "Could you relax a little, sir?" an anguished floor manager would ask. "Flash it

Like all royal documentary-makers, Prince Michael had no immediately newsworthy point to justify an hour of television. What he embarked on instead was a gentle rehabilitation of his forbear, Prince Albert, whose contributions to constitutional and social reform, and to the arts and sciences, have been rather neglected.

Finally, over to Julia Booth, who normally works for Radio York but whose film, *Deadly Inheritance* — already shown in the Yorkshire area — provided a powerful opening contribution to

sort of reconstructive surgery she should have afterwards — if any. We were there as she received all manner of conflicting medical advice; we were there when she found a surgeon whose aim was that she would pass "the tennis club shower test" and we were there when — oh happy day — the operation delivered just about everything the surgeon had promised. Was there anyone for tennis? There was indeed.

هكذا في الأصل

an unexpected recipe for this to be let's-go-to-anger-or-swoon sniggers nor s may be due to tays the latest out needlessly with either his s.
my corners".
Froot (BBC2) ting expert ed a viewer shed more l it actually ed reflector illuminate her sitting to get one e four of

TE
(ing on
satellite.
der will
free of
der No
ound:

the
my
let
my
ty
si
e

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

1. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.

TABLE 1. *Salmonella* serotypes and phage types isolated from the 1990-1991 salmonellosis outbreak in the Netherlands

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasted on transponder No.23 on the Astra 1S. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder 53 are picture: 10.52075 GHz; 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.

8.00 am 5 News Early (576020) Havana Zoo (5515827) **8.00 A.M.** of the Bush Patrol (84658) Wideworld (8457820)

9.00 Espresso (2495172) **10.00 Evening** (707205) **10.30 Fame and Fortune** (8443356)

11.00 Leads (9111356) **11.50 Double** (3441254) **12.00 The Bold and Beautiful** (4385808) **12.30 Affairs (I)** (4547827)

1.00 5 News Update (4063645) **1.00 Beach (I)** (3524269)

Presenter Esther McVey (2.00 to 2.30)

2.00 5's Company Live entertainment (7046998)

3.30 A Time To Triumph (1968) with Duke Jones, Boyz n the Bowsso. Poignant drama woman who joins the army to family's financial problems husband suffers a heart attack by Noel Black (3386240)

5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (3532400)

5.30 100 Per Cent (9217849)

6.00 Whittle (I) (9027612)

6.30 Family Affairs Melanie embarks on a new life with Holly (I) (9298714)

7.00 Exclusive News from the entertainment (2548995)

7.30 Animal Owners: Deceitful mentary about motives and their of their fragile lives against enemies (I) (9294968)

8.00 The Great Garden Game Paul presents another battle from the grounds of Newby Hall in Riponshire where the contestants challenged to tidy up the edge of the lawn at the front of the house (I) (4292400)

8.30 5 News (1261638)

9.00 Her Hidden Truth (1995) with Merlin, Antonio Sabato Jr and Diamond. A woman goes in search of her parents' killers, a crime for which she was falsely incarcerated. Directed

9.00 The
and (r)
Book
TV: The
It For
Mix
tracks
Light
1.30
Scott
Stakes
million
like (I)
wren's
ak and
on (I)
ances
a
rather
millies,
related
anne's
ed
Mark
music
Eric
to
frican
nrial
test
but
her
to
Elvie
away
test:
ous
on (I)
Don't
to get
7.45
mply
4.00

10.40 Exclusive Extra (5962563)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show (581)
11.40 Tibs and Fibs Medical quiz pres
 Tony Slattery (5271733)
12.10 Live and Dangerous Includes
 baseball from the American
 League (63638561)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (410288)
5.30 100 Per Cent (1 (2450009)

1000

COMEDY
8838) 7.30 Roseanne
ment UK (6959) 8.30
19.00 Cheers (73269)
10.00 Frasier (93608)

Clue (863289) 8.20 All Clued Up
9.00 Through the Keyhole (39-
InnQuizzion (499191) 9.35 Sa
Century (907795) 10.05 Treas
... of the ...
... of the ...

[illegible]

4.00 This Old House (3295758)
27:50/505 4.30 Driving
5.00 5.00 Time Travellers
Time Files (329849)
(3286462) 6.30 The
Zone (3273998) 8.00
6.30 The Curfew's World
(3296334) 8.30 The
Zone (3266472) 9.00 Hitler's
1 10.00 Weapons of
11.00 Subatomic

76) 1.00mm Disaster
80 Beyond 2000

CHANNEL

War (9006307) 3.00
5) 8.00 Mimi Europe
Biography John Paul

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1038.



FOOTBALL 41

No complaints to lodge over final order at Wembley

SPORT

WEDNESDAY MAY 14 1997

CRICKET 42

Check your team's performance in the ITC game



Personality clash ends 24-year link

Player power puts Best out at Harlequins

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BEST'S 24-year association with Harlequins, one of English rugby union's most glamorous clubs, came to a bitter conclusion yesterday. Best, the former England coach who has been director of rugby at the Stoop Memorial Ground for the past two years, was dismissed as a result of pressure from leading players at the club.

Few casualties in the sport's first full season of professionalism will reverberate louder than this, not merely because Best and Harlequins have been synonymous for so long but because there are indications that the players have thrown down a gauntlet to the club's administrators, which they should simply not have been in a position to do.

"Dick Best's position as director of rugby has been terminated by the club as a result of differences over its playing policies," a Harlequins statement said obliquely. "The club acknowledges Dick's great contribution to its success over many years. Dick

will remain as a consultant to the club on playing matters." The main accusation levelled at Best was that his management style was a barrier to progress and to a contented, effective squad. Yet, this season, Best's approach is said to have mellowed and Harlequins came third in the Courage Clubs' Championship, reached the semi-finals of the Pilkington Cup and qualified for the Heineken Cup.

Few coaches in Britain offer



Best: unable to comment

the qualifications which Best, who joined them as a player from Hendon in 1973, has been able to employ on Harlequins' behalf: as an amateur he helped them to two Pilkington Cups before stepping onto the England ladder, coaching the national under-21 side and then the senior side in 1992. He was assistant coach to the 1993 British Lions in New Zealand but, in 1994, was controversially dismissed by England after Jack Rowell became the team manager.

His approach has many of the characteristics of a regimental sergeant-major and it is possible that the constant exposure that professionalism has brought to his sharper observations contributed to the tensions that led to yesterday's decision. "We believe a breath of fresh air is needed at this point," one player said.

But the main point at issue is that the Harlequins directors knew precisely what they were getting for their money, and had such faith in Best that they offered him what was, in sporting terms, a long-term contract. If now they have been faced with an ultimatum from a group of players saying, in effect, that either they go or Best goes, then their own management ability must be called into question.

Injury forces Clohessy to miss Lions tour

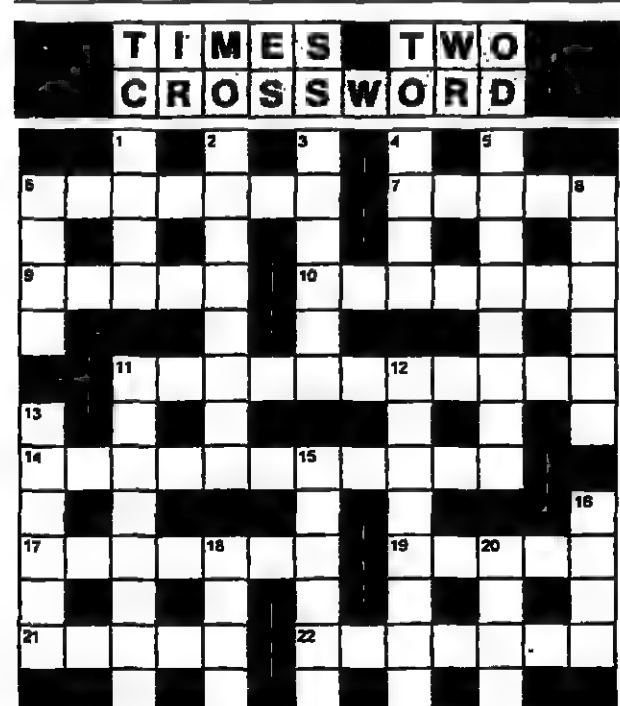
PETER CLOHESSEY became the first casualty of the British Isles and Ireland tour to South Africa yesterday, 24 hours after the party assembled at Weybridge to prepare for departure on Saturday evening. (David Hands writes). The Ireland tight-head prop has a back injury and his place will be taken by Paul Wallace, of Saracens.

Clohessy, 31, was a surprise selection insofar as he has been playing his rugby in Queensland, having served a suspension last year for foul play imposed by the Irish Rugby Football Union, who

also terminated his contract. A month ago he hurt his back in the Super 12 tournament but received medical clearance in Australia to tour with the Lions.

However, when the players trained at London Irish yesterday Clohessy's discomfort became evident.

England, who leave for Argentina on Sunday, also suffered further disruption to their tour party when Garath Archer, the Newcastle lock, pulled out with a neck injury, becoming the third lock — after Martin Bayfield and John Fowler — to withdraw.



No 1093

ACROSS

- 6 Flaw; stain (7)
- 7 Distant, disdainful (5)
- 9 Part of teapot; make speech (colloq.) (5)
- 10 JRR — *Lord of the Rings* author (7)
- 11 Accept uncorroborated (4,2,5)
- 14 Argue protestingly (11)
- 17 Made of fired clay (7)
- 19 Boat Race crew (5)
- 21 Burner; smashed (in) (5)
- 22 Format of worship (7)

DOWN

- 1 Protest march (4)
- 2 In error (8)
- 3 Poor immigrant quarter (6)
- 4 Cry piteously (4)
- 5 Seduction (8)
- 6 Lie in sun (4)
- 8 Having limits (6)
- 11 "— and —" (*Macbeth*) (2-6)
- 12 Farical parody (8)
- 13 Summary of text (6)
- 15 Gear; deal with (problem) (6)
- 16 Remain; restrain (4)
- 18 Docile (4)
- 20 Young woman (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1092

ACROSS: 1 Vacant 5 Dose 8 Zola 9 Tearaway 10 Dissolve 11 Post 12 Threat 14 Hangar 16 Whip 18 Tom Thumb 20 Damocles 21 Runt 22 Sea 23 Casual

DOWN: 2 Abolish 3 Anass 4 Title-tattle 5 Deadpan 6 Scare 7 Face the music 13 Exploit 15 Armenia 17 Heave 19 Horus

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1088

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Macabre 5 Silt 9 Merit 10 Bravura 11 Time and again 12 Villify 13 Myriad 16 Happy-go-lucky 19 Chimera 20 Aton 21 Even 22 Tangent

DOWN: 1 Mime 2 Cordial 3 Butterfly net 4 Ebbing 6 Laura 7 Trained 8 Pay-as-you-earn 12 Vehicle 14 Irksome 15 Hobart 17 Prime 18 Vent

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is L. Zicherman, Testerton Walk, Lancaster West Estate, London.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is M. Anderson, Fotheringay Road, Glasgow.

All flights subject to availability.



Tim Henman, the Great Britain No 1, found the going hard during his first match since an elbow operation in March at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome yesterday, moving through to the second round when Roberto Carretero, of

Spain, retired with a thigh muscle injury with the score standing at 4-6, 7-5, 2-0 in Henman's favour. Carretero, a day-court specialist, drew first blood when he broke Henman's service in the seventh game of the opening set, but

Henman saved three match points at 4-5 down before taking the second set. Henman will now meet one of two Italian qualifiers, Davide Scaia or Daniele Musa, in the second round — a match he should win.

Sampras beaten, page 42

Collymore comes home for a new start

By DAVID MADDOCK

THE sullen features that became almost a fixture at Anfield were gone. Instead, Stan Collymore wore a fixed, almost gleeful smile as he signed on at Aston Villa.

The centre forward completed a £7 million move from Liverpool yesterday, when he agreed a four-year contract with the Midlands club he supported as a boy from the Holbe End. His contract, including a signing-on fee, will be worth more than £3 million if Villa generate sufficient win bonuses.

The smile was a reflection of Collymore's excitement at what he believes is a "new

start". His troubles at Anfield have been well documented, but the 26-year-old preferred not to dwell on them. "There is no point going back over my time at Liverpool, what matters is that I am here at Villa and this is an exciting time to come to the club," he said.

"I don't regard myself as a failure at Anfield. My partnership with Robbie Fowler over the two years was very productive and, even though I was in and out of the team, I scored my share of goals. I left because I couldn't get a regular place, and because Villa is the team I have always supported. When I was a boy they won the European Cup, and it seems to me that things are

about to take off here again. Some people question the wisdom of Brian Little, the Villa manager, in spending a club record fee on a player best described as "difficult". Little believes, however, that he can get the best out of Collymore.

"With forwards I often look at them and see a bit of myself in them," he said. "I look back on when I was younger and wish someone had sat down and helped me a bit more. I look at experiences from my own life and hope it will help me bring the best out of players like this one."

Internazionale yesterday made what appears to be a final attempt to persuade Paul

Ince, the England international, to remain with the club for another two seasons. The mid-field player was offered a new contract worth more than £1 million a year.

Ince, however, seems certain to turn it down because his wife is set on a return to England this summer. Liverpool remain favourites to secure Ince's signature.

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, last night hinted that Gianluca Vialli, the Italian striker, would stay at the club. "I would not like to anticipate what the manager decides for next season," Bates said, "but as far as we are concerned, he has got a three-year contract."



Collymore: gleeful smile

Palace play on memories

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

ANDY ROBERTS, the Crystal Palace defender, winces when recalling the 2-1 defeat against Leicester City in the first division play-off final last season, when Steve Claridge scored in the final minute of extra time to inflict widespread misery on London SE25. Leicester went on to win the Coca-Cola Cup, and earn respectability in the FA Cup Premiership, while Palace were consigned to another term in the Football League.

A year on, Palace are only a step away from returning to Wembley. They play Wolverhampton Wanderers this evening, in the second leg of their semi-final play-off, and hold a 3-1 lead from Selhurst Park on Saturday. Even amid Mollin's intense, intimidating atmosphere, they will start as favourites.

"Losing last year was terrible, especially the way it happened," Roberts, who scored the opening goal of that game, said. "I felt like a

lost soul afterwards, I'll never forget it. Hopefully, we will have learnt from that experience, even though we're still a very young side, and it should stand us in good stead."

Wolves will pin most of their hopes, as usual, on Steve Bull, their prolific striker, who is only five goals short of his 300th in club football. "We kept him fairly quiet," Roberts

Barcelona's test _____ 41
Midweek View _____ 45

said. "We'll probably have to do the same again if we're going to get through."

Ipswich Town have home advantage against Sheffield United in the other semi-final and, after a 1-1 draw at Bramall Lane at the weekend, will be confident of progressing further.

George Burley, the Ipswich Town manager, played at Wembley in 1978 as a member

of the club's FA Cup-winning side against Arsenal.

In the second division play-offs, Brentford defend a 2-1 lead against Bristol City at Griffin Park, while Luton Town have a similar deficit to make up when they play Crewe Alexandra at Kenilworth Road. In the third division, police forces along the M4 corridor will breathe a sigh of relief if either Swansea City or Cardiff City, or both, bow out in the semi-finals.

Cardiff are 1-0 down, with an away leg at Northampton Town to come, while Swansea are level with Chester City, at 0-0, before their return meeting at the Vetch Field. Yet such is the antipathy of the rival Welsh supporters towards each other, with away fans having been banned from recent league fixtures between the clubs, that a possible meeting at Wembley has raised fears of public disorder at the stadium and on the routes leading to London.

Fox makes running for record deal

THE Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team is expected to change hands for a record fee after confirmation yesterday by Peter O'Malley, its owner, that he is involved in negotiations with the Fox Group.

"We're in the fifth month of what we expected to be a six-month process," O'Malley, whose family has controlled the Dodgers since 1950, said in a statement. The club will reportedly cost Fox, a subsidiary of The News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, between \$380 and \$400 million (£215-£250 million). Such figures far exceed the \$172 million Peter Angeles paid for the Baltimore Orioles

in 1993. "We're in negotiations," Vince Wladika, a Fox spokesman, confirmed, saying the network would not comment further at this stage.

The Dodgers come with the 300-acre site near downtown Los Angeles where Dodger Stadium is located, a 468-acre spring training facility in Vero Beach, Florida, and some property in the Dominican Republic.

The Dodgers have been for sale since January, when O'Malley announced he in-

tended to sell the club his family moved to Los Angeles from Brooklyn after the 1957 season. The sale of the National League club to Fox, which is the pri-

mary broadcaster of baseball in the United States, must be approved by the owners of the other Major League clubs.

O'Malley told the *Los Angeles Times* that if he had been able to build an American football stadium near Dodger Stadium he might not have put the Dodgers up for sale.

"I can't deny that was a factor," he was quoted as saying. "I must tell you I was extremely disappointed when we were asked to shelve our ideas." Last summer the city council voted to build a new stadium at the Los Angeles Coliseum rather than on land owned by the Dodgers.

Fox would join a number of media companies that own teams. Time Warner controls the Atlanta Braves, the Tribune Company has the Chicago Cubs and Walt Disney has the Mighty Ducks ice hockey franchise and the Anaheim Angels basketball team.

Business, page 29

COMPUTING FAXING COPYING PRINTING IMAGING

The ultimate photo opportunity

Realism

Look for the symbol that guarantees you great photo imaging to enhance your PCs performance. The results will leave you reeling.

YOU AND I CAN SAVE CAN.

For fine detail, FreePhone 0500 550 111.

Canon

CRICKET 42
...team's
...in
...game

THE TIMES People & property

WEDNESDAY MAY 14 1997

MORTGAGE UPDATE 2 ■ MILL THRILLS 3 ■ NEW HOMES 4 ■ BUYING ABROAD 6 ■ TOP 3 ESTATES 10

Welcome to the sensitive home

Intelligent, green houses are around the corner. Stephen Hoare reports

Calling home unexpectedly? Your house senses your arrival and turns on the heating. Hungry? Luckily, the fridge has ordered some extra yoghurt. Perhaps you have a companion? Your control panel understands with one touch, the lights dim and the sitting room plays soft music.

In the garden the soil is too dry for your roses, so the sprinkler turns itself on, using filtered water stored from yesterday's bath. This house, after all, is sensitive both to you and to the environment. Its linked computers make it highly energy-efficient.

Pie in the sky? Not any more. Technology has improved to the point where the sensitive home will soon be bricks and mortar. Its principles will become increasingly important as Britain's large housing deficit is tackled.

At the moment our homes are full of electronic appliances that are not communicating with each other. Domestic heating systems, burglar alarms, televisions, hi-fis, video recorders and telephones all have microchips. Link these systems and machines into a network, make the chips compatible and your home will both cosset you and lower the size of your bills.

Yesterday the theory came a little nearer reality with the launch of the Integer Project — a study sponsored by Berkeley Homes and Northern Rock Building Society. Integer, short for intelligent and green, aims to provide a blueprint for tomorrow's home. Next year Berkeley Homes plans to build at least 200 affordable houses based on the findings.

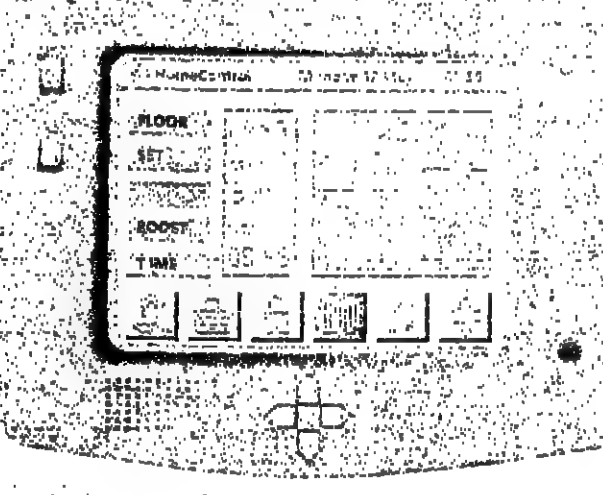
Twelve housing associations and local authorities have committed support and are looking to commission "Integer" homes. Other research partners include the Government's Building Research Establishment, the engineering design consultant Oscar Faber and the European Intelligent Buildings Group.

THE HEART OF THE HOUSE

Central control panel enables home owner to set up all heating, lighting, security circuits and household appliances using a simple menu.

A built-in modem links the house and gas, water and electricity suppliers, enabling them to meter consumption and send bills automatically. In return they can offer on-line services, like security monitoring and fault diagnosis.

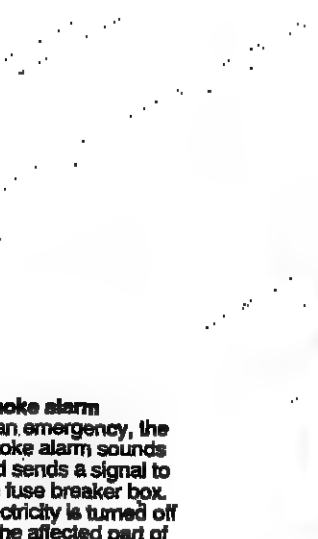
The control panel will receive real-time information on changing energy tariffs and is programmed to switch on appliances when rates are cheapest.



SECURITY

Smoke alarm


In an emergency, the smoke alarm sounds and sends a signal to the fuse breaker box. Electricity is turned off in the affected part of the house and sprinklers activated.



HEATING

Solar panels

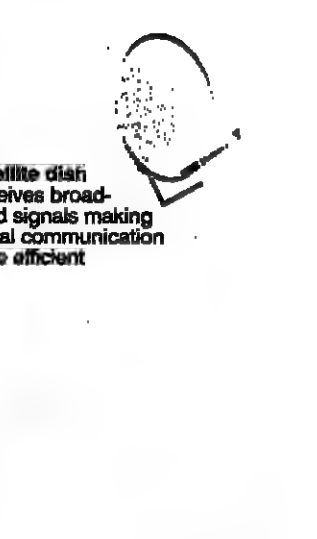
Roof-mounted solar panels heat water. The control panel will switch off electric water heater as solar power kicks in.



ENTERTAINMENT

Satellite dish

Receives broadband signals making digital communication more efficient.



ENVIRONMENT

Moisture sensing control

Sensors in the garden monitor moisture and activate sprinklers to keep plants well watered.



HOUSEKEEPING

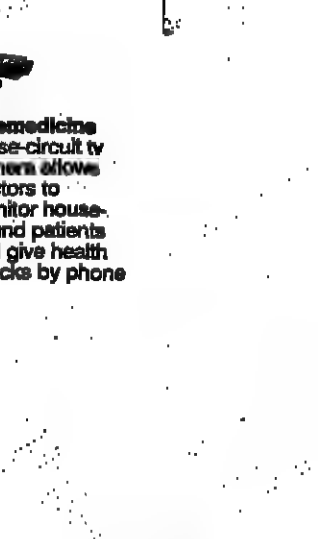
Bathroom

All taps and showers are reduced flow; lavatories are dual-flush.



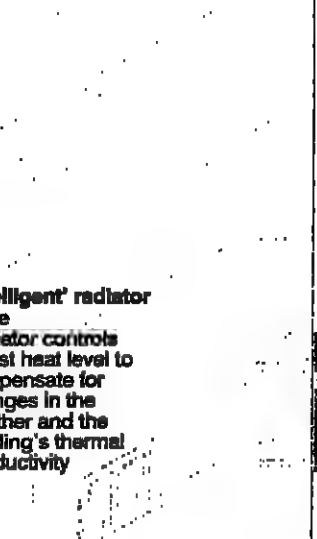
Telephone system

Cordless internal phone system allows people to phone out from anywhere in the house.



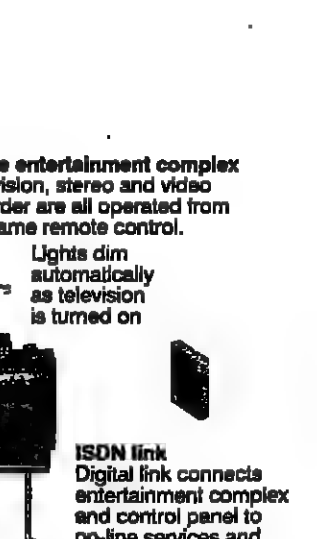
Passive infra-red detector

As well as their security role, PIRs detect when the house is unoccupied and adjust the heating accordingly.



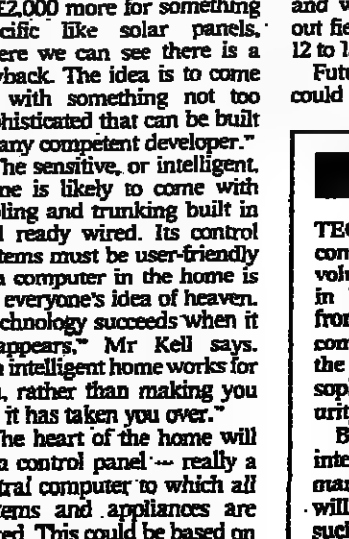
Remote speakers

Speakers are positioned in all main rooms, and sound can be adjusted from anywhere in the house, using a remote-control handset.



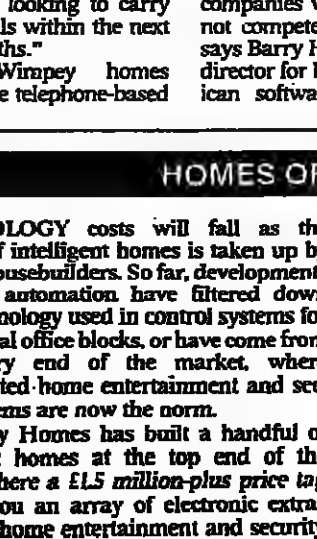
Garden pond

Acts as a reservoir for rainwater. A need bed can purify water for secondary use.



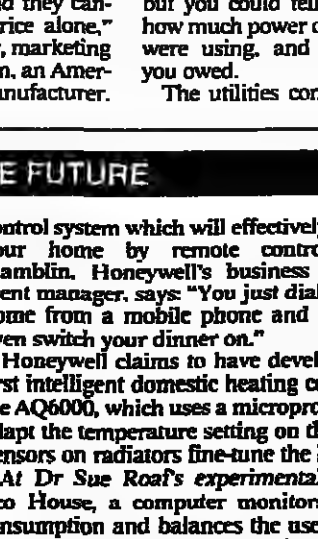
Refrigerator

Bar codes provide an inventory of contents. The refrigerator will order directly from the local supermarket when it detects that stocks of a particular item are low.



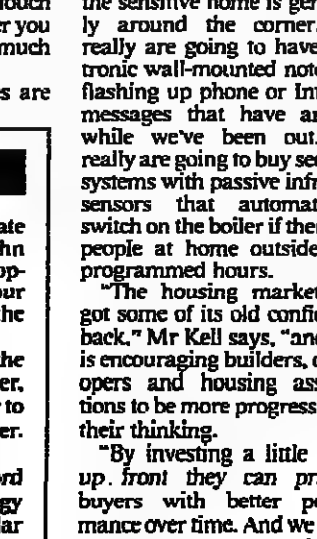
Door entry keypad

Homeowner uses security pin number instead of key. Repair workers can be allowed in by setting a once-only entry code.



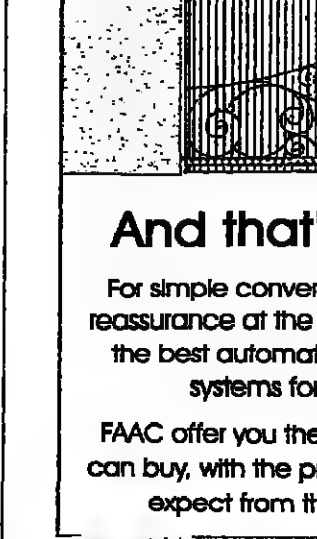
Intelligent radiator valve

Radiator controls adjust heat level to compensate for changes in the weather and the building's thermal conductivity.



ISDN link

Digital link connects entertainment complex and control panel to on-line services and utility companies.



SHAKERS & MOVERS Home for Hamlet

■ FRANCESCA ANNIS and Ralph Fiennes, fresh from his triumph in *The English Patient*, have reportedly moved into a rented home together in Fulham, west London. The couple, who met in *Hamlet*, have also kept separate homes and according to her father Miss Annis has a new house in Kensington which she is renovating.


■ EILEAN RICH, Ardfern, Argyll, an island of about 237 acres lying just off the west coast of Scotland, is being offered for sale by Earl Waldegrave, brother of the deposed Conservative Treasury minister, William. It is on the market for offers over £500,000 through the Edinburgh office of Knight Frank "Kings Island", as it is sometimes known, lies in Loch Craignish, a sheltered sea loch, and has its own floating jetty, making landing possible at all times.

■ CHESTERTONS Residential is selling a flat in Montagu Square, W1, owned by Peter York, the style-guru who invented the Sloane Ranger. The flat, over 2,000 square feet, has two French marble fireplaces and overlooks the square. The leasehold is available through the Hyde Park office for £575,000.

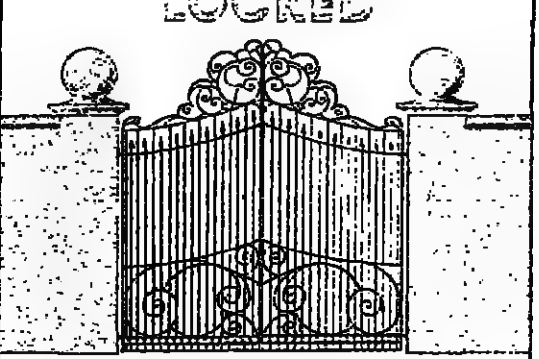
■ GURTHALOUGHHA HOUSE in County Tipperary, a country house hotel, is on the market for £550,000. The owners are founder members of the "Hidden Ireland" organisation — a collection of country houses around Ireland that welcome paying guests. A number of Hollywood film stars have stayed at Gurthallougha, including Martin Sheen, Bill Murray and Cheryl Ladd.

■ THE HOUSE where television's first cooking couple, Fanny and Johnny Craddock, lived is for sale at £925,000. The Dover House near Watford has a 30-foot-long reception hall and the study where Fanny wrote her books is 250 square feet.

AUTOMATICALLY CLOSED



AUTOMATICALLY LOCKED



And that's a FACT.

For simple convenience and security reassurance at the touch of a button, fit the best automated gate operating systems for your home.

FAAC offer you the highest quality you can buy, with the proven reliability you'd expect from the world leader.

For all the FACTS ring FREEPHONE 0800 454567
FAAC (UK) Ltd, Old Brick Kiln, Ramscot, Basingstoke, Hants RG26 5PR

13

...an unexpected recipe for this to be let's-go-to-iger-or-swoon, suggests nor y may be due to the latest out needlessly with either his 2. any corners", "out (BBC2) hting expert ed a viewer shed more it actually red reflector illuminate her sitting to get one e four of

TE ing on satellite, per will line of ser No sound:

7.30 enture 8.30

he (t arden

seeo the mly

last try ty of s

Beware the grey rush for retirement homes

Buyers seeking peace of mind should watch for high maintenance prices in this increasingly popular housing sector, reports Sara McConnell

The family home is finally getting a bit much. The maintenance bills on the four-bedroom detached house you raised your brood in are alarming. The garden is going to seed. The cleaning is exhausting. And the seclusion, behind high hedges and up a long drive, now makes you feel uneasy instead of being the attraction it once was.

The thought of exchanging this for a new, more manageable home, where the chores are taken care of by others and help can be summoned by pressing a bell, can be most tempting. Hundreds of developments of retirement homes are appearing all over the country, claiming to offer unobtrusive support to older homeowners who want to live in a safe environment without being forced to join sing-songs in the communal lounge.

Competition to buy retirement homes is fierce. Increasing numbers of households are now headed by pensioners who are living longer and remaining healthy longer. The Department of the Environment says nearly a third of households will be headed by someone of pensionable age

by 2016. Nearly a million more households will be headed by single pensioners. And these people want to buy, not rent. The majority of older people own their own homes and wish to continue to do so, according to Age Concern.

But developers complain that supply is being choked by high land prices and the apparent reluctance of local councils to grant planning permission. John McCarthy, chairman of McCarthy and Stone, which has 70 per cent of the retirement home market, says: "Two and a half years ago, it took 24 weeks to get planning permission. Now it takes more than a year. This means there is a shortage of retirement housing, particularly in the South East. We could sell more."

Many developments now have long waiting lists and buyers are so keen they are signing themselves up before their future home is even built. Gary Hughes, marketing director of English Courtyard,

which specialises in upmarket cottages and detached house developments, reports that ten of the 30 homes being built near Christ's Hospital in West Sussex have already been sold and another ten reserved, although building will not be finished until December.

Continuing heavy demand is, of course, good news when you come to sell. It is a condition of retirement developments that you can only sell to someone over 55, which can cause problems in a housing slump.

But specialist retirement home advisers warn potential buyers not to get carried away with the need for speed by signing before they have checked carefully what they are taking on.

Before you buy, visit the development and meet the warden and other residents, advises Howard Packman of Sheltered Housing Services, a specialist estate agent. If you are 60 and everyone else is 90, or if you like keeping yourself

to yourself but everyone else likes an evening knees-up, you could feel out of place.

Almost all retirement homes are leasehold rather than freehold. As with any other leasehold property this means you will have a landlord, normally the developer. They will have a managing agent who will be responsible for providing the services promised in your lease, which could include warden care, garden and exterior house maintenance and care of internal hallways and other communal areas.

They will also be responsible for making sure you keep to the rules in the lease. Many people who have always lived in freehold houses find it difficult to accustom themselves to being told they cannot keep pets or hang their washing in the garden or park their car where they like. But these are all common prohibitions in leases.

Rudi Reeves of Aims, the advisory service for retirement homeowners, says: "It is vital to understand your lease. What does it say about pets? Or parking? These may seem small problems to your solicitor but they aren't to you."

You will be expected to pay a



English Courtyard is planning a second phase at Mytchett Heath, Surrey after the first sold out within months

service charge to cover management, maintenance and repairs. This varies depending on the size and location of your property. McCarthy and Stone, for example, charges nearly £900 a year minimum for a one-bedroom flat and up to £1,500 a year for a two-bedroom flat. This includes maintenance, warden, security systems, buildings insurance, heating and lighting.

English Courtyard charges £2,500 a year for a two or three-bedroom property, which includes all the above and promises "complete peace of mind". Aims says the average across Britain is around £1,000 a year.

Complaints about high service charges topped the list of cases handled by Aims last

year. Developers admit that charges frequently rise above of inflation. You will almost certainly not be protected from this by your lease but you should be able to take some control through the residents' association set up on most developments.

Under the code of practice of the Association of Retirement Homes Managers, the annual

accounts must be inspected by the residents' association, which can challenge them if necessary. If you think you are paying for unnecessarily elaborate services, you can get them removed and the service charges reduced as long as a majority of the other residents agree with you.

• Aims, 0171-383 2006; Sheltered Housing Services, 0181-997 9313

What Labour's Budget will do to your mortgage payments

Anne Ashworth takes a look at what homebuyers can expect from the new Chancellor of the Exchequer

The first fortnight of the new government has left homebuyers reeling in surprise. Within days of the Labour victory, Gordon Brown, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, had raised base rates by a quarter of a point. This announcement was swiftly followed by a rise in the cost of mortgages.

As banks and building societies increased their variable rate loans from 7.25 per cent to an average 7.60 per cent, rumours surfaced that mortgage interest relief (MIRAS) could be a target in Mr Brown's forthcoming first Budget. It is widely predicted that he will either end or reduce the relief which remains a psychological incentive to home ownership despite its much diminished value.

The abolition of the relief would put an extra £28.50 a month on homebuyers' bills but would raise a useful £2 billion for the Chancellor. At present, the relief is given at the rate of 15 per cent of tax on the first £30,000 of a loan.

However, it seems unlikely that Mr Brown would wish to alienate the ten million homebuyers who benefit from the concession. Some believe he might move instead to end relief on new loans, although Maurice Fitzpatrick, of Chantrey Vellacott, the London firm of accountants, takes issue with this view.

He says: "Abolishing relief on new loans would raise very little money initially. It would take ten years before the measure started to make a significant contribution. It is more likely that Mr Brown will phase out the relief on all loans over a three-year period, reducing it first to 10 per cent, then to 5 per cent and then to zero."

Mr Brown's dislike of mortgage relief was shared by his Conservative predecessors

who aspired to abolish the concession but faced resistance from Margaret Thatcher. Unable to kill off MIRAS, they had to be content with decreasing its value, allowing it to "wither on the vine". The £30,000 limit has remained unchanged since 1983.

Labour plans to curb gazumping, making it expensive to oust a buyer

The news of the mortgage rate increase, which adds £13.26 to the monthly bill of a borrower with the average £50,000 loan, has further boosted the popularity of fixed-rate mortgages. These now account for around half of new loans. Five-year fixed-rate loans are particularly popular,

with some borrowers who are anxious to ensure that their repayments stay unchanged until the next election.

Shortly after the announcement of the rate increase, many lenders withdrew fixed-rate offers, replacing them with more expensive deals.

Patrick Buntin, of the Bath mortgage brokers London & Country, reports that customers are interested both in fixed rates and in capped rates. "We are keen at the moment on the Bristol & West 7.25 per cent five-year fixed rate," he says. "You are not required to take out house and contents cover, which is now a condition of many other loans. You also pay the £295 arrangement fee, not upfront but at the completion of the loan. This means that you will pay this charge if

you go ahead with the property purchase."

Like other mortgage brokers, London & Country is enthusiastic about capped rate loans, where your rate is guaranteed not to rise above a certain level for a fixed period. Besides being protected from rate rises, borrowers with capped rate loans benefit from rate decreases. The Stroud & Swindon Building Society is offering a three-year, 7.49 per cent capped rate.

Some home owners may be thinking that the mortgage rate rise and the threat to mortgage relief imply that Labour has some antipathy towards home ownership. But this would not be true. Some economists believe that the decision to pass responsibility for interest rate policy over to the Bank of England could mean more rate stability in the future, which would be good news for borrowers. Labour also plans measures to curb gazumping, making it expensive for a seller to cold shoulder a buyer if a better offer comes along.



BRODIES is offering 11 Glenfinlas Street, Edinburgh, a complete Georgian townhouse with views to Charlotte Square. Katherine Bergen writes. Offers are invited over £200,000. There is also a basement flat, which is expected to exceed £80,000. Glenfinlas Street is a five-floor house which was until recently a lawyers' office. Planning permission has been granted for the property to be reinstated as a private house and it

retains all its period features. It was built during the 1820s as part of the development by the Earl of Moray and designed by the architect James Gillespie Graham. Keys can be rented for the lovely woodland gardens of the Moray Estate and for the nearby Queen Street Gardens.

• Brodies, Telephone 0131 228 4111, Fax 0131 228 3878

One call could knock thousands of pounds off your mortgage insurance

You don't have to buy insurance from your mortgage lender. Great news, since the difference between the best and worst rates can be several thousands of pounds over the term of the mortgage.

Call us now to find out how much you could save.

Virgin direct personal financial service

0345 95 95 95

Open seven days a week from 9am to 10pm

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. For your security, all calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and randomly monitored.

Would you rent out a room to one of these?

There could be £8,000 in it for you, says Dixie Nicolls

THIS is the time of year when students start looking for next year's accommodation. Renting to students is big business and a lot more sophisticated than it used to be with cards on notice boards giving way to Web sites.

The University of London Accommodation Office has up to 5,000 households on its database and e-mails its students with updates daily. It offers advice and issues guidelines. Leeds students have a trendy cyber-café where they can surf for accommodation. Landlords on the system are asked to sign up to a code of conduct. Leeds students can see particulars of everything on offer, 24 hours a day from anywhere in the world.

Landlords are keen to let to students because the returns are high. The average weekly rent paid by a student in shared private sector accommodation is £40.12. It accounts for 52 per cent of student income. The rest of us spend a paltry 16.6 per cent on accommodation.

Rod Horner, an estate agent who runs GA's Kent and Sussex rental department, says: "There are plenty of landlords who purchase properties with the intention of letting to students and will take all the baggage that goes with them in their stride."

Letting a house to students is likely to bring in a lot more money. A four-bedroom terraced house in Leeds, let to a family, is likely to earn £450 a month — which on a 48-week let means £4,950 a year. 10 per cent of which will be taken up in agent's fees. Or it could be let to five students, with the front room an additional bedroom, paying £37 a week each, on a 43-week let. The same house will earn £7,955 a year and the accommodation list fee is only £30.



Your tenant? Viv of The Young Ones

Martin Blakey, who runs Unipol, the charitable organisation that finds accommodation for students in Leeds and is a considerable landlord in its own right, says students are reliable. Out of a student rent roll of £1.7 million last year, Unipol only wrote off £3,000 in bad debts.

He concedes that students require more management than other tenants. "The tenancy turns over every year and you have to explain how appliances and heating work. They are also bad at reporting repairs, especially towards the end of their tenancy. They tend to leave accommodation in need of a spring clean."

Rental costs for sharers vary around Britain. London is high (£51 a week) but there is an extra £395 in grants and £390 in loans to soften the difference. However, costs follow availability and there are points worth considering when choosing where to study.

WHAT IT COSTS

THE regional average weekly costs per student for sharers in the private rental sector and for lodgings in private homes:

Region	Private	Lodgings
Scotland	£44.62	£52.50
Wales	£37	£50
North West	£38.79	£53
North East	£38.79	£47.75
West Midlands	£34.50	£54.75
East Midlands	£36	£52.38
East Anglia	£43.20	£47.75
London	£51	£51
South West	£42.04	£58.60
South East	£47.50	£50.66

Figures from NUS survey

The National Union of Students produces a document which helps student unions to negotiate accommodation costs.

It is not comprehensive but it showed that this year St Andrews and Dartington, in the West Country, (£50 a week) were the most expensive after London. The cheapest was Stockton (£25) followed by Crewe (£25.32) and Teeside (£26.50). Shared rented property is by far the most popular choice among those who live out of college. Only 9 per cent opt for lodgings. Many students take lodgings as second best and are not keen to swap one set of parents for another.

Income from letting a single room varies. Some places appear to be goldmines. Huddersfield Technical College is the Eldorado of lodgings from the landlords' point of view at £70 a week. Manchester and Nottingham are high at £65, but lodgings dip to £30.50 at Crewe.

The good news is that you can earn up to £4,250 a year tax free by letting out a room in your own house. However, not paying tax on other properties let to students is a risky business. Tax officers carry out spot checks on advertisements.

Secure premises in Westminster

Emergency services are selling their property, says Katherine Bergen

IF YOU fancy a night in the cells, a property in Westminster will allow you to indulge your whim.

When a new police station was opened in Buckingham Palace Road in 1993, it replaced both the Gerald Road and Rochester Row stations. Rochester Row is partly vacant and it is understood that the Metropolitan Police intends to sell the site.

It occupies a prominent location in the Vincent Square conservation area and has two main frontages, one to Rochester Row and the tree-lined private space of the square.

The site is composed of six buildings, constructed at different times, set around a courtyard. All are of architectural or historical interest. The four-floor police station and the former magistrates' court, also on Rochester Row, are Grade II listed buildings. Westminster City Council would require the preservation of the listed buildings.

The council is also seeking to sustain an adequate and accessible range of social and community facilities to meet the needs of residents, workers and visitors in Westminster. The draft planning brief also states, "where, due to changing circumstances, a community facility is surplus to need, new development will be expected to provide some alternative community facility of benefit to the community."

But provision is nonetheless being made for the possibility of residential use.

SHOULD you prefer another emergency service, the former Cheshire Fire Brigade headquarters is for sale. Wallmoor House, a Grade II listed Victorian structure, was once the home of the architect John Douglas, who was responsible for a number of notable buildings in Chester. After the relocation of the HQ in Winsford last month, Edmund Kirby is selling the site and buildings on behalf of Cheshire County Council.

"We anticipate interest for uses which, subject to constraints, might include reversion to residential use, hotel, nursing home, restaurant or retention as offices," says Charles Hubbard, one of the partners. The property is 4,950 sq ft and is in a prominent position overlooking the River Dee and Broughton Meadows. Offers of between £800,000 and £1 million are expected when it is sold by formal tender, this month.

• Edmund Kirby 0151-226-4552

REGALIAN, the London-based property developer, has restored and converted a listed Victorian hospital at Chipping Norton. Only one of the three-bedroom houses remains available in the building itself, through Knights Frank in a joint venture with Chancellor, but there are also five new houses being built in the grounds, starting at £140,000. They are traditional, three-bedroom houses designed to blend with the Cotswold stone of the original buildings.

• Knight Frank 01865 780077 or Chancellors 01608 644422

• Westminster City Council 0171-641 2257

Want to live in a mill? Christine Webb recommends a cautious approach



"There is a niche market for enthusiasts, but anyone who wants to

**'They can
virtually
be listed
on the spot'**

Whoever buys Bartley Mill, near

The society frowns on plans for conversions, and is a force to be reckoned with. The vice-chairman Mildred Cookson, the miller at Mapledurham Mill near Reading, Berkshire, says the society does not recommend conversions to dwell-

"We get opposition from mill owners. Once a mill is listed we say they must stick by the rules and do no alterations without reference to us."



Morag Preston describes the restoration of a 'time capsule'

Roger Tabor, a television presenter, bought and restored the mill, now the subject of a five-part BBC2 series to be screened from

the bathrooms, but the hardest part was personal. I've developed lots of properties in the way of business, but this was my family home, packed with personal mem-

“I got to know the building before I started work,” he says. “I learnt what the machinery was originally used for, and I tried to imagine how it would have been had the miller actually lived there.”
 ● *The Mill's Life*, Robson Books, £16.95.

<p>SOUTH OF THE THAMES</p> <p>KENNINGTON Overst 3 storey detached 4 storey houses for sale by Auctioneers Wood Austen & Substation 0171 763 2662</p> <hr/> <p>NORTH OF THE THAMES</p> <p>BARGAME, Representatives and Bestwood Ltd give sales, view Capital Property, Lincs / days 10am-10pm 0171 833 1104.</p> <p>CROUCHING 2 bed semi, very quiet well set back 1912, £200pp, Tel 0171 833 1912</p> <p>WYNN 4 bedroom house, 2000 sq ft apartment on 4th and 5th floors, double garage, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, £250,000. Home & Some 0171 499 9944.</p> <hr/> <p>LONDON PROPERTY DEVELOPERS</p>	<p>SOUTH OF THE THAMES</p> <p>DUNDESTER TERRACE W2 Modernised 2 bed 3rd & 4th floor flat, Maida Vale, Station period home, £169,980 Leasehold, Westbourne Estates 0171 972 9613</p> <hr/> <p>CHISWICK W4</p> <p>Quiet road, close High road. Archited designed, Modernised Victorian terrace 4 beds, bath, twin garage Separate shower room, GPCN Large kitchen, patio garden. £285,000</p> <p>Tel: 01296 613116</p> <hr/> <p>HADLEY WOOD</p> <p>Luxury house set in approx 1 acre, 5 bedrooms, 5 en suite, 6 reception, gym, utility, games room, double garage, 24hr CCTV, video entry, 160ft frontage, electric gains. £1.5 million.</p> <p>0171 247 6361.</p> <hr/> <p>MARBLE ARCH REYNOLDS CL 3 4, 3 bds, study, office, 24 hr port. £352,500. 0171 724 9111</p> <p>PURFORD St. George's Square, Lough 3 stone bed suite, 1 en suite bathroom, central heating, porch, fire room, lounge, 4 bedrooms, £240,000. Tel 0171 628 4772.</p> <p>FRANK RD 3 best described houses with oak pine throughout. £245,000. 0171 828 8100.</p>	<p>REPOSSESSIONS</p> <p>The Building Society Repossessions Unit 1200+ flats and houses in London and the Home Counties 3 month subs £59+ pp BSRL</p> <p>0181 262 7788</p>
 <p>Let Us Search For You London's No 1 Specialist Search Company Tel: +44 171 838 1066 Fax: +44 171 838 1077 http://www.home-search.co.uk/home Knightbridge, SW3</p>		
 <p>FITZJAMES AVENUE, W14</p> <p>Unique and appealing features in exceptionally spacious ground floor maison flat.</p> <p>Long hallway to charming dining room draped with a Moorish carpeted ceiling, leading through double doors into splendid reception room with feature archway and elegant neo classical fireplace, overlooking the communal grounds, large light filled breakfast room, utility room, two double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, bathroom, after noon and further WC and wash basin, Portes and security parking.</p> <p>£235,000 Leasehold</p> <p>Fulham Office. Tel: 0171 384 1001</p>		

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

PRIVATE ADVERTISING OPENING TIMES

MONDAY & TUESDAY	9AM-6PM
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY	9AM-7PM
FRIDAY	9AM-6PM
SATURDAY	9AM-4PM
SUNDAY	10AM-4PM

TEL: 0171 481 4000 FAX: 0171 782 7799

New homes in the finest English tradition

If you're looking for a fine new home you'll find Countryside's approach refreshing. Enjoy all the advantages of a new home that's built with meticulous attention to detail and situated in an outstanding environment. Experience that traditional sense of pride every time you return to your new Countryside home.

New homes in Essex, Kent,
Hertfordshire, Sussex
and North Somerset with prices
from £45,000 to £360,000

Telephone free on
0500 100 217

Countryside

PROPERTIES

Gaining places at Oxbridge

Oxford and Cambridge incorporate every cliché, with their sleepy rivers, narrow streets and ancient courts and quadrangles. Their vistas are protected by rigorous planning policies, but there are new buildings and developments in both locations which are sympathetic to the historical nature of their settings.

Barry Brown, an architect with the Cambridge practice Bland, Brown and Cole, has just completed the £6.5 million refurbishment of the Arts Theatre. He says the key to working in Cambridge is not to be hasty: "Planning is not insuperable, but you can't do things in a hurry." He has been involved in schemes for housing associations, several colleges, churches and special needs homes.

But his non-classical, rational pragmatist design for added residential accommodation for Downing College flustered the Fine Arts Commission. "The building is not in the tradition of Quinlan Terry, which is what the college is used to. But we do now have planning permission."

Berkeley Homes launched Eight's Marina, a development of 39 apartments and penthouses on the banks of the Cam last October, and 55 per cent of the apartments have now been reserved or sold. Overlooking Midsummer Common, they cluster around a private marina. Prices range from £199,950 to £330,000 for two and three-bedroom flats and penthouses.

Elevations are classically proportioned, incorporating varying roof heights and features such as gables and cupolas. "This provides variety while ensuring the buildings are respectful of the architectural heritage of the place," says a spokesman for the developers, who have another similar development on Midsummer Common called Evening Court.

In Oxford, for the first time in many years, a tower is rising to join the spires. A building on the west side of Folly Bridge, over the Isis, is to be converted and has received planning consent from the City Council. The development will include five riverside flats, a riverside restaurant, pontoons and boat hire and an adjacent art gallery and artists' studios.

Orde Levinson, the man behind the scheme, got two architecture students from Oxford Brookes University to design the project. "I had trouble from the town planners, who objected to the restaurant," he says. "But the Council and English Heritage approved the second set of designs and we start work in June, with completion by the end of the year."

The building company is Knowles and Son, which built one of the Oxford bridges painted by Turner. The River Thames Society has already asked Mr Levinson to allow it to hold its annual riverside dinner there.

KATHERINE BERGEN



Oxford's Folly Bridge development includes flats, a riverside restaurant and an adjacent art gallery. It will also add a tower to the dreaming spires

Classic route to a position in Bath society

Taking a Georgian approach is the secret, says Christopher Warman

Bath's Georgian heritage is guarded so jealously that a new large country house near the city centre, between the Royal Crescent and Lansdown Crescent, is almost unthinkable.

Yet there it stands, now reaching completion, with the grand entrance flanked by two gate lodges. The finished building, Cavendish Lodge, is not quite as it seems; however, within the building are 20 apartments, the project finally approved by John Gummer, the then environment secretary, in 1994.

This was the culmination of a decade of protest by the City Council, Bath Society and the Bath Preservation Trust, including two inquiries, a High Court hearing and an Appeal Court judgment in favour of the protesters. The developers in turn appealed to Mr Gummer, who overruled the city planners.

The three-acre site, which overlooks a golf course and has views across and beyond

Bath, provides a magnificent setting. Largely derelict for some years, it was acquired in the mid-1980s by a local developer, Peter North, who brought in William Bertram, an architect who has worked for the Prince of Wales on improvements at Highgrove. The scheme is now owned by

Beaufort Homes, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Berkeley Group.

Cavendish Lodge, the only classical building of its size built in Bath for 100 years, has walls of Bath stone and Cotswold open-jointed rubble stone, and classical columns and mouldings to recreate a

Mr. Betts explains that the design was based upon the very simple ideas of the first to compile John Wood the Elder, who combined six townhouse into one classical building (in Queens, Square, Bath); and to produce a building which "better interested" with art copied the elements around it.

three bedrooms, two reception rooms and two bathrooms and each has garaging. There is a video entry system through wrought iron gates, and comprehensive security in each apartment and lodge.

Bruce Cresswell, Beaufort Homes' managing director, says: "Not only is Cavendish Lodge as good as any new development in Bath, but the setting puts it into a different class."

Both lodges and eight apartments have been sold or are reserved, and the remaining apartments, on a 999-year lease, are priced from £270,000 to £310,000. Joint agents are the Bath offices of Savills (01225 444622) and Cobb Farm (01225 333332).

Beaufort Homes has another classical project under way. Imperial Apartments in Imperial Square, Cheltenham, has 39 apartments and penthouses, which have proved so successful that more than 90 per cent were sold or reserved off-plan.

market. Imperial Apartments is a classical terrace and follows the original 1834 plans for the square, which were never realised. Ralph Guilford, today's architect, has designed the new terrace in the pure Regency style of Cheltenham.

It backs on to Montpellier Apartments, another scheme by the developers, which is sold out. The last units at Imperial Apartments cost from £175,600 to £360,000 through Knight Frank International (01865 790077) and Andrews of Cheltenham (01242 235021).

Beaufort Homes' latest project in Cheltenham is Byrone Court, a Regency-style mansion of 12 apartments and one penthouse. The two-bedroom apartments are on three floors; and the house is in private gardens, with a garage for each apartment. Prices are from £105,000 to £185,000 for the penthouse, through Halifax Property Services (01242) 553129.

With a Nationwide mortgage

CASHBACK

you're home and dry



**UP TO
£10,000
CASHBACK**

Moving into a new place can be an expensive business. But with a generous mortgage cashback from Nationwide, you'll soon feel completely at home.

You could receive a cheque for up to 3% of your total loan, up to a maximum of £10,000. The exact amount depends on the size of your deposit and whether you take out our competitive buildings and contents insurance.

But, in any case, you'll benefit from the exceptional value of our

competitive standard variable rate,
currently 6.99% APR 7.3% (variable).

In short, with an award winning Nationwide mortgage, you'll be better off now and in the long term.

If that sounds too good to be true, there's a simple explanation. At

Nationwide, we're committed to remaining customer owned. With no dividends to pay to shareholders, we aim to pass on the benefits to you through competitive mortgage rates.

So to make sure you're home and dry with a Nationwide cashback mortgage, call us free on **0800 30 20 10** (quoting ref: TM99) for a quick and easy mortgage quote, between 8am - 8pm weekdays, 9am - 5pm weekends. Or visit your local branch.



Find us on the Internet at <http://www.nationwide.co.uk>

7.8% APR
(VARIABLE)

[illegible]

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT



Cavendish Lodge: a new country house after years of protest



Eve-Ann Prentice reports on the British colony about to be relinquished to the Chinese, where the cost of luxury apartments soared last year

Hong Kong stems sky-high prices

The most expensive homes in the world are to be found on a scrap of land on the far side of the world which is about to be taken over by one of the last great Communist powers, where nature plays havoc with typhoons and where the weather is often stiflingly humid.

Just over six weeks before China takes charge of Hong Kong, property prices have hit a downward spiral, but this is only because of Government moves to curb rampant speculation and a rise in American interest rates — not because of any shadow cast by the impending changeover.

Perhaps even more surprising is the fact that estate agents in the territory expect the market to rebound with prices soaring to new highs for the rest of the year.

There are three main reasons for Hong Kong's sky-high residential property prices:

● A chronic housing shortage coupled with a fast growing population.

● Rich residents deciding to stay on in Hong Kong after arranging bolt-holes abroad in case the Chinese takeover goes wrong for them.

● Speculators from China and South-East Asia snapping up luxury apartments in the belief that prices, which rose more than 40 per cent last year, will continue to rise.

In November, a single-family house on the exclusive Victoria Peak fetched a record HK\$70 million (£5.5 million), while earlier this year 27,000 people queued to buy 1,600 flats in another new development.

Even flats built in less fashionable areas, such as the border with China, are being snapped up. Six hundred flats — at £375 per square foot — were sold in one day when



Hong Kong: while some poor families have to live on boats, property speculators forced prices of homes to leap 20 to 30 per cent in the first three months of this year

they went on sale at Tin Shui Wai, an out-of-the-way location near the Chinese border a few weeks ago. A four-bedroom flat in Dynasty Court, a stylish complex, has sold for more than £500,000, while homes on Hong Kong Island's southern coast cost up to £750,000.

Standard flats for expatriate families in Kowloon, one of the

most densely crowded places on earth, cost about £5,500 a month to rent, while luxury homes for top executives can cost more than £12,000 a month to rent.

Nonetheless, developers and estate agents were angry last month when the Hong Kong Government decided to extend the period under which developers could sell flats

before they are finished from a year to 15 months — but on condition that all flats in a given development are put on the market within six months.

The authorities hope that earlier sales will improve liquidity for developers and prompt them to put more apartments on the market.

Property companies have tradi-

tionally tried to keep prices high by putting fewer than 30,000 homes on the market each year for the past decade, and last year hit a new low when only 19,000 became available.

The new rule was announced on the same day that Hong Kong banks raised their prime lending rates from 8.5 per cent to 8.75 per

cent, an increase prompted by the rise in American rates, since the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the American currency.

A spokesman for the Hong Kong Real Estate Developers' Association described the changes as "an unwarranted intervention in normal commercial decision-making".

The double blow for property

speculators came after the price of homes leapt 20 to 30 per cent in the first three months of this year. Estate agents in the territory expect the rate rise and the new rule governing flat sales to bring a fall in apartment prices of up to 10 per cent this summer before recovering and rising later in the year.

Ivan Chen Kun-wah, an assistant general manager of Midland Realty estate agents, told the *South China Morning Post* newspaper: "Prices were going too far. It was time to take a break."

However, most developers believe that speculation fever is unlikely to be cooled by China's takeover in July, largely because Hong Kong's scarcity of good housing is getting worse.

The territory's population has surged by 16 per cent to 6.3 million in the past ten years, a level planners had not expected until 2010. The leap in property prices means that most Hong Kong families cannot afford to buy and more than 50 per cent of the population now lives in public housing.

As well as the burgeoning population and chronic housing shortage, the price of homes have been bolstered by a 34.5 per cent rise in the Hang Seng share index, which is dominated by property companies.

Hong Kong politicians are now worried that the bubble could burst just as Beijing takes over. Chris Patten, the Governor, and C.H. Tung, the man who becomes Chief Executive of the territory on July 1, have both warned that property prices are rising too quickly and there have been dark rumours of a 16.5 per cent profit tax on speculators.

Luxury and elegance that suit to a tee

Golfers and second-home owners enjoy the splendour of Royal Westmoreland in Barbados, says Diana Wildman

Next month, on Friday the 13th, opposing teams from the Royal Westmoreland Golf Club and the Sandy Lane golf club will play for the Duke of York trophy. This is a fine silver claret jug which the Duke presented to Royal Westmoreland during his last visit to Barbados — on condition a competition was held for it every Friday the 13th.

The Duke, an excellent golfer and an honorary club member, will not be participating this time but he plans to play for Royal Westmoreland the following time round, February 13, 1998.

Six years ago, Royal Westmoreland was just another bankrupt West Indies sugar plantation. It is set in the

foothills above St James on the sophisticated west side of the island, home of the Sandy Lane and Glitter Bay hotels. It is here, too, that the horse supremo Robert Sangster owns a grand beachside mansion and where the Guinness family, the Cunards and Noel Coward chose to holiday in their vast villas.

But today's second-home owner doesn't just want to sip cocktails all day. Most buy with an eye on future rental income, a well-managed leisure scheme and in-house management and rental facilities as well as plenty of sport.

Royal Westmoreland consists of an 18-hole championship golf course, the focal point of which is the colonial-style clubhouse. Split-level town

houses around the club have been built and mostly sold. Edging the greens and fairways are some elegant, detached villas. Fifty homes have been sold, and a further 25 are sold but still under construction. The company expects to sell a further 50 homes this year. When the development is completed, there will be 308 elegant properties.

Prices range from £330,000 for a two-bedroom unit while standard detached, four-bedroom villas cost from £490,000-£770,000. Individually designed homes on large plots start at £1.3 million.

Royal Westmoreland has a special government concession for overseas purchasers who do not have to pay the usual 10 per cent property purchase tax.

In addition, non-residents may obtain a local mortgage up to 50 per cent. However, Barbadian law specifies that all property transactions must be handled by a local attorney.

Sales manager David Barnard says: "A lawyer could advise on the formation of an offshore company through which the property would be purchased if required. All property owners have the right to become members of the golf club but outside membership is limited."

Prominent outside members include Sir Garfield Sobers and Virginia Wade.

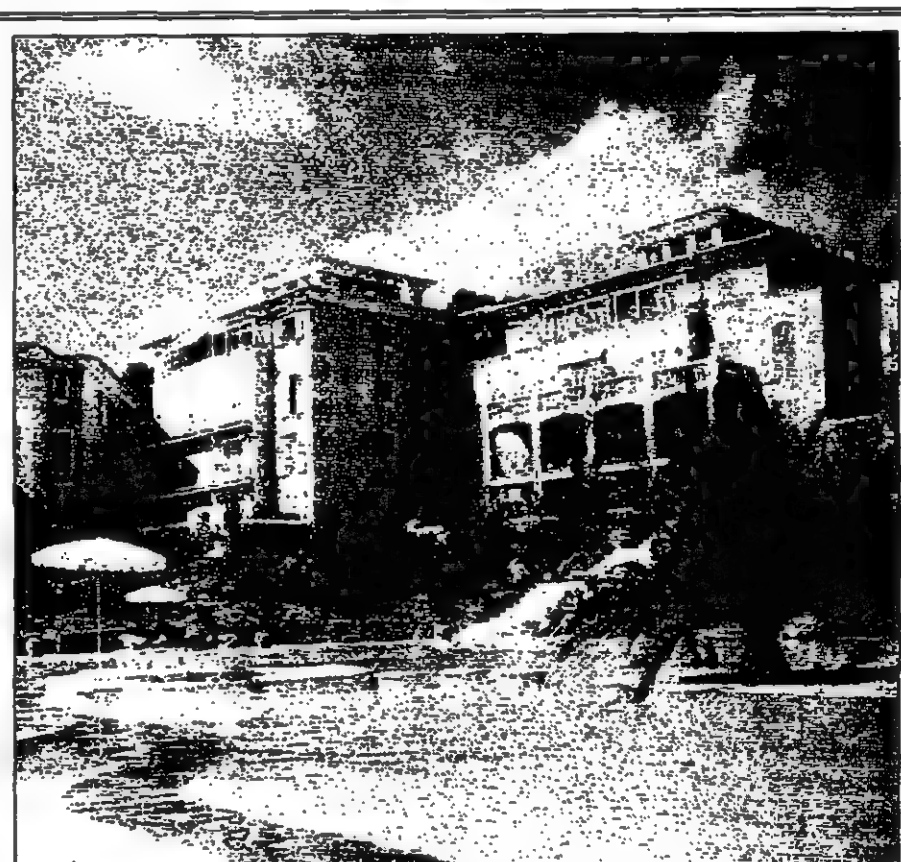
Giles Rooney, UK director of Royal Westmoreland, says: "Although the homes are proving extremely attractive to golfers, a large proportion of buyers do not play golf at all."

"These purchasers are buying for lifestyle factors, the security of the gated development and the community facilities which include tennis, swimming pools, a health spa, gymnasium and restaurant."

A smart marina development is planned for Port St Charles, on the west coast of Barbados, a few miles north of St James. This scheme will consist of one to three-bedroom apartments, three-bedroom town houses and spacious beachfront villas, priced from about £195,000 to £1.3 million through Nick Leeming of Humberst.

Planners have included several amenities exclusively for residents, including membership of the yacht club. No duty will be charged on personal effects or yachts brought into Barbados by Port St Charles residents.

Recreational facilities include two restaurants, shops, tennis and squash courts, a spa and an islet within the marina's lagoon with a freshwater swimming pool, bar and a dinghy dock.



Sold out: phase two of the Bendinat development. Phase three is now under way

Golf's the big hook for Majorcan resorts

High-class coastal fairway developments are now going with a swing, reports Christopher Warman

GOLF, as much as sea and sun, is an abiding reason for building residential developments in southern Europe. The choice of Valderrama at the Spanish resort of Sotogrande, east of Gibraltar, for this year's Ryder Cup is recognition of its growing importance.

Majorca, too, has seen an increase in the number and quality of its golf courses as it continues its progress upmarket. The latest projects at Bendinat, an 850-acre estate close to Palma,

demonstrate this point. It was bought in the early 1980s by Prince Nawaf bin Abdul Aziz, a senior member of the Saudi Arabian royal family. The estate's first phase sold out quickly, mainly to the British market, and the second phase — the golf complex — has also sold out. That included a nine-hole golf course and 130 apartments. Phase three is now under way.

The 21 apartments and eight town houses at Ses Olivares, due for completion in June 1998, have been designed by Joan Manuel Bonnin on two, three and four floors in a typically Mediterranean style, with varied roof levels. Conscious of environmental issues, the developers have met the challenge with low-lying buildings that blend in with the landscape, using a sepa-

rate network of water for drinking and irrigation, low-wattage street lighting, solar light and double glazing to save energy, and special materials to improve insulation.

The Royal Bendinat golf course has joined the Audubon Society of New York, a leading ecological group with more than 2,000 member golf courses, including Augusta. Bendinat is the first course in Spain, along with Valderrama, to become a full member, and the

estate is becoming increasingly cosmopolitan, both in owners and developers. The agents are now selling villas in a new development completed by Mont Services.

Russian-owned and Danish-built, in one of the more established areas near the Old Course and river, aimed at the top of the market, they are for sale from about £540,000.

More realistically, for those who have not won the National Lottery, Holmes offers a wide range of resale apartments and houses. Apartment prices start from about £50,000 for a two-bedroom one at Tenisol, from £80,000 for a beach apartment, and from £210,000 for four-bedroom, terraced houses on the edge of the Guardiola river, with views of Gibraltar and the nature reserve island.

(Holmes 01473 610758).

marina, riding and other sports — everything that meets the requirements of a modern leisure resort. But golf and the Spanish success of enticing the Ryder Cup from Britain, is the main reason for interest in property there.

Holmes, long-established estate agents at Sotogrande, looks after new and resale properties as well as rental property, including the week of the Ryder Cup in September.

The estate is becoming increasingly cosmopolitan, both in owners and developers. The agents are now selling villas in a new development completed by Mont Services.

Russian-owned and Danish-built, in one of the more established areas near the Old Course and river, aimed at the top of the market, they are for sale from about £540,000.

More realistically, for those who have not won the National Lottery, Holmes offers a wide range of resale apartments and houses. Apartment prices start from about £50,000 for a two-bedroom one at Tenisol, from £80,000 for a beach apartment, and from £210,000 for four-bedroom, terraced houses on the edge of the Guardiola river, with views of Gibraltar and the nature reserve island.

(Holmes 01473 610758).

Why eight is a lucky number

Superstition can play a part when foreigners go house-hunting in Britain, says Katherine Bergen

As a classic, English xenophobe, Uncle Matthew in Nancy Mitford's novel *Pursuit of Love* expresses an unambiguous view of foreigners. "Abroad is unutterably bloody and foreigners are fiends," he rants. He would be appalled to discover how much foreigners like this country and are making themselves at home here.

According to Knight Frank, overseas tenants account for more than 80 per cent of the prime central London lettings market. Landlords who want to stay ahead of competition would be well advised to study the different national characteristics, as perceived by British estate agents.

Americans like well-equipped homes with large kitchens and lots of bathrooms with high-quality fittings and power showers. They also like period homes.

Fitness-conscious Americans like swimming pools, gyms and tennis courts, and both Aylesford and Knight Frank point out that the American School in St John's Wood make that area particularly attractive. The property developer Anthony Lassman says smart Americans also love Belgravia because it compares favourably with Park Avenue and Fifth Avenue in New York. Middle Eastern clients also like Belgravia.

The French want traditional properties but in pristine order, says Knight Frank. The Lycée in South Kensington and the premises of the Alliance Française, which are also located there, have led to a concentration of French people in the area. The Scandinavians, Swiss and Germans like lots of natural wood and light and high-tech fittings. The Swiss insist on power showers, while the Germans are keen to settle in Richmond, near the German School.

Savills says that Middle Eastern clients, as well as Greek, Turkish and Russian buyers, like large family apartments with lots of space in purpose-built mansion blocks. A lot of kudos is attached to proximity to Harrods and Hyde Park.

Indians and East Europeans like Shries-bult houses with wood cladding. And they like leafy areas, which perhaps remind them of their dachas. But now they're beginning to move to the centre. They are fast decision-makers; they'll exchange and complete in days.

Postons has found Chiswick to be popular with the Japanese because of the Japanese School in Ealing. Their taste is for new properties with simple, almost minimalist, decoration. At Knight Frank, staff find that the Japanese can cause confusion by complimenting a property even when they do not like it in order to avoid causing offence.

The Hong Kong Chinese like newly built homes with a high quality of finish. According to Aylesford, they buy more for investment, like Singaporeans, than for own occupation. Postons has found that they are interested in buying newly refurbished blocks, especially in Kensington, where they will pay up to £600 or £700 per square foot.

Knight Frank's experience is that Hong Kong Chinese are highly superstitious when choosing a property. A death in a house or a nearby graveyard is very unlucky. Conversely, a house that has had a fire can be lucky, as is the number eight. Many Chinese will not live in a property in a new development that has a four in the number.

Trevor Abrahmsohn, managing director of Glentree Estates, luxury agents specialising in north London, says Middle Eastern purchasers can be stubborn. "They want a good position, opulent and overtly ostentatious. They don't understand what we call the Tardis principle, the idea that something small from the outside can be big inside."

"Indian purchasers are clever and astute but the garden has to be cow-faced shape. A deal failed because the top part of the garden was thinner than the bottom part. And the house needs to be blessed and face the right way. The Japanese can be similar."

Russians and East Europeans like Shries-bult houses with wood cladding. And they like leafy areas, which perhaps remind them of their dachas. But now they're beginning to move to the centre. They are fast decision-makers; they'll exchange and complete in days.

Postons has found Chiswick to be popular with the Japanese because of the Japanese School in Ealing. Their taste is for new properties with simple, almost minimalist, decoration. At Knight Frank, staff find that the Japanese can cause confusion by complimenting a property even when they do not like it in order to avoid causing offence.

The Hong Kong Chinese like newly built homes with a high quality of finish. According to Aylesford, they buy more for investment, like Singaporeans, than for own occupation. Postons has found that they are interested in buying newly refurbished blocks, especially in Kensington, where they will pay up to £600 or £700 per square foot.

Knight Frank's experience is that Hong Kong Chinese are highly superstitious when choosing a property. A death in a house or a nearby graveyard is very unlucky. Conversely, a house that has had a fire can be lucky, as is the number eight. Many Chinese will not live in a property in a new development that has a four in the number.

Trevor Abrahmsohn, managing director of Glentree Estates, luxury agents specialising in north London, says Middle Eastern purchasers can be stubborn. "They want a good position, opulent and overtly ostentatious. They don't understand what we call the Tardis principle, the idea that something small from the outside can be big inside."

"Indian purchasers are clever and astute but the garden has to be cow-faced shape. A deal failed because the top part of the garden was thinner than the bottom part. And the house needs to be blessed and face the right way. The Japanese can be similar."

Russians and East Europeans like Shries-bult houses with wood cladding. And they like leafy areas, which perhaps remind them of their dachas. But now they're beginning to move to the centre. They are fast decision-makers; they'll exchange and complete in days.

Postons has found Chiswick to be popular with the Japanese because of the Japanese School in Ealing. Their taste is for new properties with simple, almost minimalist, decoration. At Knight Frank, staff find that the Japanese can cause confusion by complimenting a property even when they do not like it in order to avoid causing offence.

How can borrowing £75,000 be a better investment than investing £75,000?

If, like us, you believe that the residential property market is set for a period of sustained growth, you should seriously consider taking out a mortgage for a second property. After all, the demand for rented accommodation is strong, and you'll find our rates particularly attractive right now. So if you'd like to strengthen your investment portfolio with bricks and mortar, give us a call on the number below.

paragon
mortgages


Call free 0800 375 777

Paragon Mortgages Ltd. Registered in England No. 232904. Registered office: 11 Berkeley Street, London W1X 6BU. 0171-355 5028. Paragon is a registered mortgage broker. Interest rates are subject to change without notice. Typical example: £75,000 on a repayment basis at 7.5% APR. 7.5% APR would make 200 monthly repayments of £495.56, total amount payable £119,108.00. All loans subject to status, credit and income age 21.



Ealing properties appeal to the Japanese (Foxtons, £495,000)

HEATHPARK, BLAIRGOWRIE, PERTSHIRE



**A SUBSTANTIAL VICTORIAN STONE BUILT FAMILY RESIDENCE
IN THE LATE 1800'S AND SET WITHIN TWO ACRES OF MATURE
LAWNS, AND GARDENS**

Entrance and Reception Hall, Drawing Room, Dining Room, Cloakroom/L
Room, Office, Kitchen/Family Room, Inner and Rear Hallways, Upper
Dinner Room, and a Terrace with an En suite and Dressing Room.
Beddisting Room (suitable for an en suite or domestic staff) and Gaiety Ro
upper Drawing Room, Oil Fired CH, Grassy Flat comprising Hall, Kitchen
Room, Cloakroom, Bathroom, and Beddisting. Off Peak H
Outbuildings and Garage. In all about 2 acres.

For appointment to view or further information
01273 575757



NGE, ROSEHILL, PENZANCE.

is offering an open weekend across surrounding woodlands. The estate is situated in a beautiful area, with a large garden and a driveway. The house is a large, multi-story Tudor-style house with a prominent chimney and a tiled roof. The house is surrounded by a garden and a driveway.

Call 01709 561111 for more information. Tel: 01709 561111. Fax: 01709 561111. Email: info@penzance.co.uk. Website: www.penzance.co.uk

SURREY
by Green (5 miles Guildford).
and spacious mid 60's family house in
with secluded approx 1/2 acre garden, 4
tion rooms, bathroom & downstairs
large, large separate studio/playroom and
double garage. Some work needed.
£350,000
all for more information:

SURREY

5 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME IN VILLAGE OF CHURT.

Set in 40 acres opposite village green with long views of the village, school, etc. It is the perfect family home. The house has a large hall, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a large garage, master bedroom suite, large conservatory everything else including a kitchen to enjoy. The village with good facilities, close to Farnham, Guildford and Dorking. For more details contact the Sellers in the region of £338,000.


HENLEY

Your opportunity to own a 2 year old, executive house out-dated in this beautiful, historic, Thames-side town has 5 bedrooms and would suit a family of 6. The house has a large hall, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a large garage, a large conservatory, a separate kitchen, a large breakfast room and the spacious kitchen. It is a very modern house, fully fitted with modern appliances. The house is set on the banks, which is the view that also gives the house, which lends off the entrance hall, is the four driveway rooms, which also leads out to the fields. This luxury house is a great investment as well as a home you can enjoy every day.

£395,000.

W1
IS DOUBLE BEDROOMED
GROUND FLOOR FLAT
 Fully decorated throughout. Resident
 car lease with low service charge,
 initial with scope for improvement,
 initial sale at only £190,000.

ASTAL DEVON



2 bedrooms, 2 bathroom ground floor flat, one of six in mid Victorian building in 2 acres overlooking Sidmouth, White Cliffs and with sweeping views over the Channel.

Mr. Ross On-Wye
4 miles A40, 3 miles Ross, 14 miles
has B'Hara airport. Spacious, clean-style
3 beds (3d, 2d), 2 baths, utility/
laundry, 2nd floor. 1st floor: 2
beds, drawers, boarder loft, garage 10'4"
servatory, shed, greenhouse, revolving
patio. Sheddable open garden, very well
laid (mostly old-fashioned), bulbs,
in borders and island beds. Pond, arches,
etc.


[illegible]

W FOREST
Lymington
 A house on exclusive private estate,
 to Marinas and Forest amenities.
 tion. Ideal family accommodation.
 Price £739,000

[illegible]

01590 682118

ENGLISH BORDER



Very rarely sold, waiting new buyers for 6, now special

[illegible]

Tel: 01978 510805

HARVEST HOUSE
Kelsale, Suffolk



For only £139 inc VAT you can get advertisement (4cmts x 20columns) an opportunity to describe your home fully, a more also included.

PRIVATE ADVERTISING
SELLING YOUR PROPERTY
Our next property supplement will be on Wednesday June 11th.
For only £139 inc VAT you can get advertisement (4cmts x 20columns) an opportunity to describe your home fully, a more also included.
For more information please

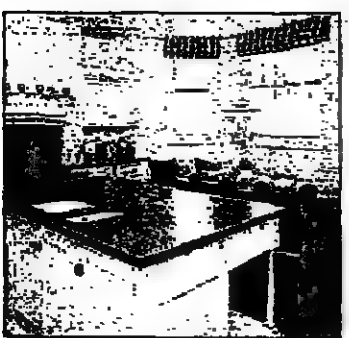
Tel: 01548 842778.

0000 01923 231510

15



ROYAL CHERRY, W11 £1,100 per week.
An elegant four storey semi-detached house, the jewel of the royal cherry. The accommodation, which is laid out over the ground floor, first, second and third floors, comprises entrance hall, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, study, utility room and garden. Royal Cherry is at the western end of Holland Park Avenue and is ideal for the transport facilities, shops and restaurants of Holland Park. NOTTING HILL GATE OFFICE 0171 670 7000



STAFFORD TERRACE, W11 £2,500 per week.
An amazing Victorian period family home with garden. The house is laid out over the first, second and third floors, comprising entrance hall, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, study, utility room and garden. Royal Cherry is at the western end of Holland Park Avenue and is ideal for the transport facilities, shops and restaurants of Holland Park. NOTTING HILL GATE OFFICE 0171 670 7000



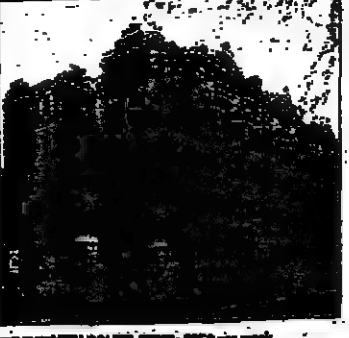
FRIMLEY HILL, W11 £2,500 per week.
An exceptional Victorian period family home with garden. The house is laid out over the first, second and third floors, comprising entrance hall, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, study, utility room and garden. Royal Cherry is at the western end of Holland Park Avenue and is ideal for the transport facilities, shops and restaurants of Holland Park. NOTTING HILL GATE OFFICE 0171 670 7000



FOXTONS
Prime Central
London Property



CHERRY HILL, W11 £2,500 per week.
An exceptional Victorian period family home with garden. The house is laid out over the first, second and third floors, comprising entrance hall, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, study, utility room and garden. Royal Cherry is at the western end of Holland Park Avenue and is ideal for the transport facilities, shops and restaurants of Holland Park. NOTTING HILL GATE OFFICE 0171 670 7000



CHERRY HILL, W11 £2,500 per week.
An exceptional Victorian period family home with garden. The house is laid out over the first, second and third floors, comprising entrance hall, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, study, utility room and garden. Royal Cherry is at the western end of Holland Park Avenue and is ideal for the transport facilities, shops and restaurants of Holland Park. NOTTING HILL GATE OFFICE 0171 670 7000



CHERRY HILL, W11 £2,500 per week.
An exceptional Victorian period family home with garden. The house is laid out over the first, second and third floors, comprising entrance hall, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, study, utility room and garden. Royal Cherry is at the western end of Holland Park Avenue and is ideal for the transport facilities, shops and restaurants of Holland Park. NOTTING HILL GATE OFFICE 0171 670 7000

WINCHESTER
Affordable commutable luxury
Desirable living in an attractive city with a historic heart, quality shopping and entertainment facilities as well as superb communications, make these luxury three storey four bedroom town houses the perfect choice for the busy professional to escape to.
Luxury fittings including oven, hob, integrated dishwasher, fridge/freezer, washer/dryer, fitted wardrobes and garage. Everything to suit the discerning purchaser.
ARLINGTON PLACE KING ALFRED TERRACE, WINCHESTER
4 bedroom 3 storey town houses from
£184,950
For further details contact the Sales Office open 11.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. Thursday to Monday inclusive
WAINHOMES BUILDING BRITAIN'S HERITAGE
FOX-SONS TELEPHONE 01962 862121
TELEPHONE 01962 844112

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA
COUNTRY PROPERTY
THOMSON, RODDICK & LAURIE
Land & Estate Agents
MORRINGTON ESTATE DUMFRIES
Extending to around 106 acres.
As a Whole or in Lots
Superb Views down Cairn Valley
LIST OF ALL PROPERTIES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST
60 Whitelands, Dorking
Tel: 01387-353344 Fax: 01387-266236

Bungalows in East Anglia and Lincolnshire
PERFECT PLACES TO RETIRE
PRICES UP TO **£126,900**
For further details please call us on the Freephone
Bennett Homes FREEPOST
Honeygrove Building, London Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3PP
Tel: 01462 861530
Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Tel: _____
Dep. T1 1458
Voted by our satisfied customers
1997 BRITISH HOUSEHOLD FIVE OF THE YEAR
FREEPHONE 0800 33894 (24hr Service)
Bennett Homes
Specialising in all types of property to sell

COUNTRY PROPERTY
Irelands
WASHINGTON HOUSE & FARM BERGH APTON NORFOLK
Country House, Farm Buildings & Land
126 Hectares
For Sale As A Whole or in 3 Lots
Full details from the Sole Agents:
Irelands, 2 Harford Centre, Hall Road, Norwich, NR4 6DG
Tel: (01603) 250888 Fax: (01603) 250666

FOX-SONS
FULKING, WEST SUSSEX
Eighteen approximately 8 miles, A23 approximately 5.5 miles. A superb converted Grade II listed period house delightfully situated at the foot of the South Downs.
Magnificent reception hall, dining room, breakfast room, study, kitchen, utility, master bedroom suite, 2 guest bedrooms, 2 further bedrooms, 4th bathroom, garage.
Complete in all approximately three-quarters of an acre.
Price Guide: £465,000
Fox & Sons Country House Department
01892 512585 or 01444 459966

CASH BUYER
Sells unwanted houses in W8, W11, W14, NW6, NW7, W6, W9, W10, W12, W13, W15, W16, W17, W18, W19, W20, W21, W22, W23, W24, W25, W26, W27, W28, W29, W30, W31, W32, W33, W34, W35, W36, W37, W38, W39, W40, W41, W42, W43, W44, W45, W46, W47, W48, W49, W50, W51, W52, W53, W54, W55, W56, W57, W58, W59, W60, W61, W62, W63, W64, W65, W66, W67, W68, W69, W70, W71, W72, W73, W74, W75, W76, W77, W78, W79, W80, W81, W82, W83, W84, W85, W86, W87, W88, W89, W90, W91, W92, W93, W94, W95, W96, W97, W98, W99, W100.
Tel: 0181 332 2696

Maenporth
THE MAENPORTH ESTATE
EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OWNERSHIP IN CORNWALL
Maenporth is a unique leisure development of prestigious holiday homes situated on one of the most breathtaking stretches of coastline in Cornwall.
• Panoramic views over sandy cove
• 29 Acres of beautifully landscaped and maintained gardens
• Private swimming complex • Two tennis courts
• Quality restaurant
• Luxury 3 bedroom properties - available from £90,000
Tel: 01326 250000
Please Note: viewings by appointment only
PILKINGTON

NEW HOMES
THE PERFECT BLEND OF QUALITY & STYLE
70% of these quality new homes have now been sold - three every week.
A hearty reason to visit this quality development of three and four bedroom detached houses or four bedroom town houses.
The Willows is set in a sought after canal side location in Hemel Hempstead. Visit the show homes today.
FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSES FROM: £147,950 - £159,950
THREE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSES AT: £132,950
FOUR BEDROOM TOWN HOUSES FROM: £142,950
TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS FROM: £75,950
01442 216002
Fairclough Homes
Come home to quality
SHOW HOMES OPEN DAILY 11AM - 5PM

Discover a new meaning to apartment living.
Hast Hill is a Victorian country mansion which has been the subject of a detailed refurbishment and conversion by Honeygrove Properties.
It is set in an elevated position within grounds of five acres and has superb open views across the Kent countryside.
MADE PICTURE: HAST HILL HOUSE.
SMALL PICTURE: ROOF GARDEN TO PENTHOUSE.
HAST HILL
KESTON • NEAR BROMLEY • KENT
A magnificent penthouse apartment has now been released for sale and offers the following accommodation: three double bedrooms, three ensuite bedrooms, two reception rooms, a large kitchen/breakfast room, two garages, its own private roof top garden and communal tennis court.
The apartment is priced at £410,000, to include carpets, curtains and light fittings.
Convenient for the M25 (six miles) and only 17 minutes to London Victoria from Bromley South.
For further information or an appointment to view please telephone 01732 369935.
HONEYGROVE PROPERTIES

SW5
Stunning newly landscaped 1st floor maisonette with balcony. 200 sq ft with first floor. 2 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Use of communal garden. 102 sq ft. £225,000.
Tel: 0171 370 1715
ST ANNE'S VILLAS W11 HOLLAND PARK
Light basement 2 bed flat, with large garden, good storage, kitchen, central heating, period features. 118 sq ft. £118,000.
0171 602 4029 0468 760377
HAMPSTEAD
OUTSTANDING
BRAND NEW, 3 story detached house, W11, 300 sq ft, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 living rooms, 2 dining rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 utility rooms, 2 garages, 2 porches, 2 patios, 2 lawns, 2 gardens, 2 parks, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 universes, 2 everything.
Price on application. Tel: 0171 225 2630
HIGHBURY/ISLINGTON
QUIET
ISLINGTON SQUARE
Freshly built on 4 floors with all street parking & large garden. 450 sq ft. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 living rooms, 2 dining rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 utility rooms, 2 garages, 2 porches, 2 patios, 2 lawns, 2 gardens, 2 parks, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 universes, 2 everything.
£405,000.
Tel: 0171 871056
NY ANGEL
Excellent corner 4 bedroom period house, light airy and spacious. 1, shaped reception, through kitchen/dining, master bed plus ensuite bathroom. Further 3 beds and 2 bath/shower rooms. When fully furnished.
Call CH: £440,000 Freehold. Hemel St. CH. 0171 226 0160

70% PROOF
THE PERFECT BLEND OF QUALITY & STYLE
70% of these quality new homes have now been sold - three every week.
A hearty reason to visit this quality development of three and four bedroom detached houses or four bedroom town houses.
The Willows is set in a sought after canal side location in Hemel Hempstead. Visit the show homes today.
FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSES FROM: £147,950 - £159,950
THREE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSES AT: £132,950
FOUR BEDROOM TOWN HOUSES FROM: £142,950
TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS FROM: £75,950
01442 216002
Fairclough Homes
Come home to quality
SHOW HOMES OPEN DAILY 11AM - 5PM
The Willows, Hemel Hempstead

Westbury
Developments throughout Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester.
For more information FREEPHONE 0800 378585

MAYFAIR
Situated close to Mount Street and within a short walk of Park Lane and Hyde Park.
Spacious attractively decorated 4th floor flat in character building with lift. Accommodation comprises: 2 beds, reception room, kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom, en-suite hallway.
Lease in excess of 42 years.
Price £265,000 STC.
For further details please contact: 0171 486 2277.
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
GRADE II LISTED
Three houses, close to town centre. Recently renovated, 3 bedrooms, en-suite, study, garage, 11 x 15 mile garden.
£285,000.
Tel: 01280 823138

Wilderness tamed by a labour of love

It is likely the house will sell to someone with a good use for the annexe. The asking price is £475,000 freehold with Guy Leonard & Partners, Mill Lane, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4NF. Telephone 01903-742354.



Katherine Bergen reports on the latest from the nurseries

Visitors to the show will be able to buy these new plants.

● **BBC Gardeners' World Live 1997 runs from June 11-15 and is open from 9am-7pm (Sunday 9am-6pm). Ticket hotline 0121-767-4111.**

[illegible]

CHANCE from 3,000. Free travel
costs. Call 0181 291 1750 / Fax 175
VIMEYARDS, carpenter, c/
vinea, fauna. We specialise
in vines & Land 0181 205 30

GREECE

NAFPLIO
Apartment 900 square
feet in the centre of this
Historical town.
Traditional luxury, totally
renovated & refurbished.
£75,000.
0030 752 23197
0181 789 9018

SPAIN

COSTA DEL SOL Malaga
Sotogrande land magnific
beachfront. 1000 sq ft. 100
acres. Nerja, Marbella & Torrem
Overseas offices. Phone Pro
erty int. 01628 778841

JAVIER/RODRIGA CTSK-40
Phone & select

MARBELLA Superb terrace house for sale
only £70,000 to £140,000 (T.V.)
01642 886181 for brochures

MARBELLA Water extension of the villa
with 4 beds. New & improved
Prestige position **01922 429200**

PURTO SOTOGRANDE - Spain
Cris. beautiful 3 story fin. S.
beach front 41 x 100 ft. 2 bldg. terraces
with 10 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, pool,
CL. area, garage, covered parking
area, etc. Call **01922 429200**

SPAIN EXCLUSIVE GOLD Coast, Costa
Club & Beach properties
Call **01922 429200** or **0600 0181 377 5050 (24hrs)**

**COSTA BLANCA
&
TENEFIFE**
New and re-sale
Apart/Villas
For FREE brochure
01323 899204

I.P.C.
Office U.K.-Spain
(F.O.P.D. Member)

ALCAZABA BEACH
Estepona - West Beach

terrace. C/N/G. of marble floors, award
winning gardens, 6 swim pools, tennis
courts. Best run dev. on coast.

\$117,000

Tel/fax 0034 52 790079

USA

**FLORIDA HOMES Orlando and
Gulf Coast. Guaranteed return
schemes. FPC 01202 804460**

A black and white photograph of a man in a suit and tie standing in front of a large, circular, classical-style building with columns. The man is smiling and has a mustache. The building features a prominent circular portico supported by several columns. The image is framed by a thick black border.

YOUR GARDEN FOR A MERCEDES™

den but could make do with a new car, conservatory, holiday or even cash, then
Mayhurst Homes would love to hear from you.


We offer the best prices for land that we are able to develop.

● *obtaining Planning Approvals* ● *Garden development* ●
● *developing small plots* ● *the construction of luxury houses*

at the neighbours, don't be! We only build prestige homes, which add a touch of
class and value to any neighbourhood.

our other half, chat to the neighbours and then call us on
01483 476202

will do the rest whilst you choose your Mercedes



MAYHURST HOMES LTD
FARM — BRUNSWICK ROAD — BROOKWOOD — SURREY GU24 0AQ
Tel: 01483 476202 ● Fax: 01483 476214

I started as a tiddler on the roof

People say I am mad up on a roof, basically because I am fairly agile. I never ever fall. Even if I have had three or four pints, it doesn't affect me.

I am the eldest of a family of 13 from County Clare in Ireland and I was good at school and won a scholarship. I was studying electrical engineering at college but I dropped out. My mother didn't talk to me for three months after that, but I didn't want college. I still don't regret it because I enjoy my work. I like having fun with the others.

I have always had a head for heights. I used to climb on the ledges on the Cliffs of Moher back home, and when I was 12 I climbed the school chimneys to put flags up when the Pope came to Ireland to visit.

I went up there on my own. I was about four years old when I climbed a big ash tree and slipped from the small branches to bigger ones about four feet lower. I had glasses then to correct a squint and they broke. I haven't worn glasses since.

THE ROOFER'S TALE

Building secrets revealed as a craftsman confesses all to Eve-Ann Prentice

I work 12 to 14 hours a day. We are putting up a roof in Mill Hill at the moment. It's all in the head when it comes to balance. Some people don't have the nerve. A lot of accidents are due to people's stupidity and lack of concentration.

Flat roofs are the most difficult because you are so tied to time, dealing with the hot tar. It is so finicky. If someone wants a new roof, I am their man.

I can do it and I never have any problems. There is no difference in the quality of a roof on a rich house or a modest house because all the tiles are factory-made, unless you have Cotswold stone, which is more expensive.

Slates cost about £1 each and the average roof costs £2,500 to £3,000, including labour.

People still swipe lead from roofs

because you can get about £20 a hundredweight from the scrap metal merchants for it. Some foremen on building sites are very stupid in England. It varies from site to site. I am also a carpenter and I was working on the Jubilee Line extension working under a seven-and-a-half ton lintel and I asked the chargehand to pass me down some wood. He said he was blowing if he was going to go labouring for me.

It was good money there though — £500 a week. Then the recession hit. I think people have learnt a lesson about the black market. It will never be like it was during the boom years again. People made good money and they were silly.

I don't know what my dream life would be but I know I could never sit down.

If it is raining on the roof it will

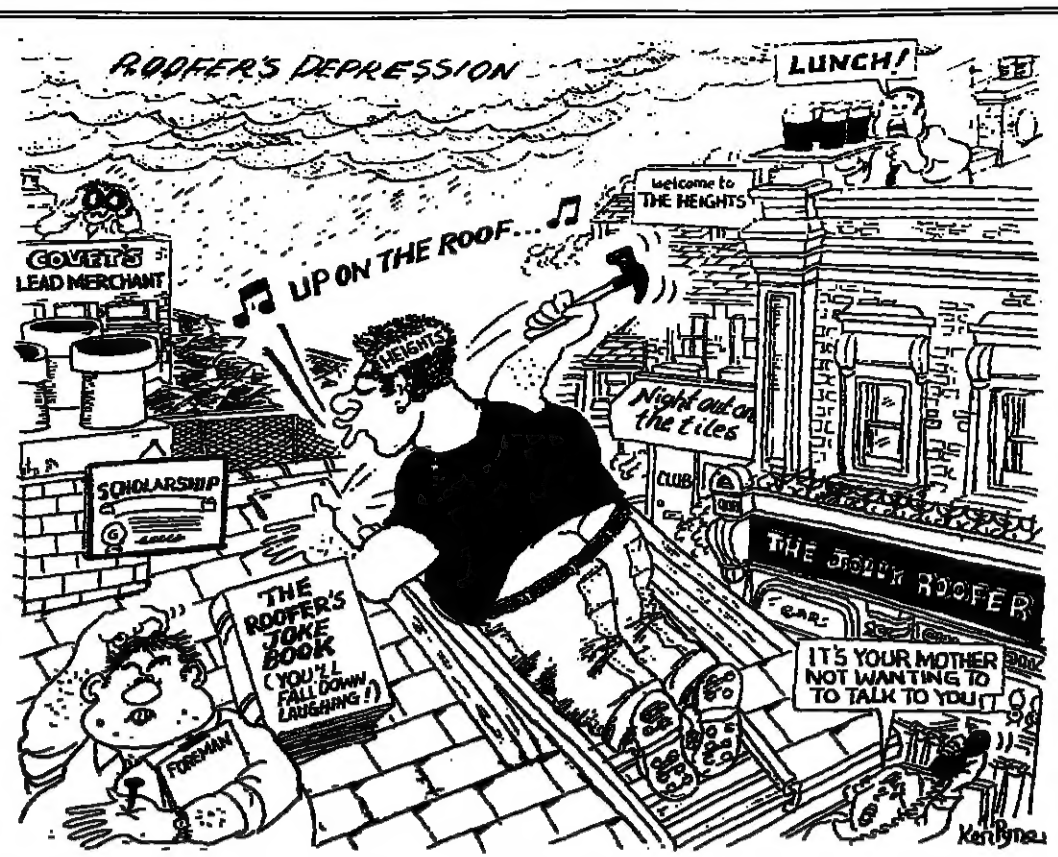
definitely stop you working. The slates get too slippery.

Danger is all in people's heads. I was working on a site when a friend came over from Ireland to work with me. He was awful nervous and had to put sheet ply down to crawl across the beams. He had no head for heights.

We were brought in one Saturday at one place when the boss and his brother were finishing the roof. The boss asked my friend to hammer in the nails and my friend was at an awkward angle and afraid of hitting the boss's hand. The boss told him to hit the wrong thing and he took a great swing with the hammer. He took your man's thumbnail right off. My friend dropped the hammer and ran.

I won't be told what to do; I will not in agreement but then do what I want.

My girlfriend worries about me. I have no personal insurance, but I am lucky. My two kids are fearless, too. I have a girl and a boy and the boy can't be kept down. They climb the wooden bookshelves at home, high up the wall.



With land values soaring, homeowners are dusting off their dark and cobwebbed image of basements, reports Amanda Loose

Britain's underground movement



Houses like this in Regent's Park provide inspiration for a new wave of homes with basements

Developers are going underground. As land values soar, lifestyles change and building land in prime locations becomes ever dearer, basements are making a comeback.

Popular on the Continent, and found in some 40 per cent of North American homes, basements are now being seized upon by many developers as a solution to changing housing needs.

Developers Fairclough Homes and Laing plan to build basements, while building organisations including the National House Building Council (NHBC), the British Cement Association and the Building Research Establishment have formed the Basement Development Group.

Basements were commonplace earlier this century, says Derek Hamilton, Knight of the NHBC, but their popularity dwindled after the Second World War. They were seen as dark and filled with cobwebs in the 1950s and 1960s.

But as land becomes scarcer and ever more expensive in urban areas and demand for spacious new homes increases, developers are continually looking for ways to make the most of limited spaces.

Basements are a solution in densely populated areas such as London and the South East, says Mike Dobner of Fairclough

Homes: "When developers pay such a premium for large areas of good building land, we need to maximise the square footage of house on each site."

"We have already built three-storey town houses with underground garages, but buyers seem to prefer two storeys above ground. We are currently looking at basements which are not fully sunken, with windows above ground to let in a little light."

And people are willing to pay for extra space, above or below

now a good chance of getting a 10 to 15 per cent additional return on houses with basements at the top end of the market.

Laing Homes has included basements at its latest development in Cuffley, Hertfordshire, where the four houses will gain up to 1,000 sq ft of additional floor space.

"People now buy for the long term and homes need to have potential, be it for a larger family or leisure activities. We include basements in all our North American developments, and our research shows that people are very receptive to the idea of extra space," says Mr Wallis.

Mr Hamilton-Knight agrees: "New build houses were seen as a quick investment in the 1980s, but buyers now treat them as somewhere they want to live and can adapt into a home."

Thirstone Homes hopes to start building basements after several buyers at the top end of the market inquired about them, says Tony Pidgeley. "We initially thought about building wine cellars, but decided we shouldn't be so specific. More and more people demand extra space, whether they work at home, or want sauna rooms, gyms, storage space, utility and shower rooms — and in the case of one client a dog room — but do not want to lose an all-important bedroom."

'People buy for the long term and homes need potential for a larger family or leisure'

ground, says Andrew Dewar of Curchods. "Many large new houses we market have a basement, often because developers are taking every opportunity to provide as much living accommodation as possible."

"We have recently sold a six-bedroom house in St George's Hill, Surrey, with 2,500 square feet of accommodation, including a gym and games room below ground, for around £1 million."

In the new build market, Stuart Wallis of Laing Homes says there is

Private landlords are given their own watchdog

Katherine Bergen
on a new-style
ombudsman for
rented property

For the first time, private landlords can use the services of an independent Housing Ombudsman instead of going to law. He is Roger Jeffries, formerly the Housing Associations Tenants' Ombudsman.

A scheme which came into operation last month under the Housing Act of 1996 covers all social landlords other than local authorities, and offers voluntary membership to private sector landlords.

Two codes provide recognised and reasonable standards for the management of tenanted residential property. A further code was published last year by the Association of Retired Housing Managers. All three envisage that landlords should have clear procedures for handling complaints.

"It would therefore be logical and fair for unresolved complaints in the private rented sector to be considered by an Ombudsman. The Housing Act now enables me to fulfil that role," Mr Jeffries says.

He maintains that most landlords want to ensure their tenants get a good service, earn a good reputation and let their homes easily. Disputes with tenants cost money and time; going to court can be very expensive and sometimes damaging. If they are left unresolved, they can undermine competent housing management.

"The scheme offers an impartial, careful, informal and cost-effective review of complaints after the landlord's own procedures have been followed. My rulings are conclusive, and I believe they are seen as fair," Mr Jeffries says.

"Decisions are given with full explanations and reasons for them. I investigate complaints from tenants and others receiving housing services from landlords about matters concerning their relationship with their landlords. The complaint must have been registered with the landlord in the last twelve months of the matter arising and must have been completed by the landlord's own procedures before it can be considered by me."

"I must make a decision on each complaint according to what is fair in the circumstances. If I uphold the complaint, I can order compensation or other reasonable and appropriate redress."

Landlords in the scheme fund it through an annual subscription. In 1997-98 it is estimated that the charge will be 85p to 95p a year per unit of accommodation in the scheme. Saving the legal costs from one court case could easily meet a landlord's subscription for a whole year.

The subscription covers a full range of dispute resolution services including the Ombudsman staff and access to the advice they receive from the barristers and solicitors on difficult points of law and from a panel of experts who advise on accountancy, surveying and housing management as well as the mediation and arbitration service.

"We really do want to encourage private sector landlords," urges Mr Jeffries. "I suspect renting tenants' and leaseholders' problems are not markedly different from those in registered social housing, and we believe the extension of the Ombudsman concept will prove helpful."

More details are available from the Independent Housing Ombudsman at Norman House, 105-109, Strand, London WC2R 0AA.

Couple go Dutch to rid their home of dampness

Eve-Ann Prentice discovers a damp-control system from The Netherlands that promises to dry even the wettest home

Valerie and Richard Little have become the first people in Britain to go Dutch to cure the bane of their lives. The home they bought six years ago was dripping with condensation. Paint flaked off window frames almost as soon as it was applied. Upstairs rooms had an unnatural chill. Even their metal curtain rings turned green.

They bought a dehumidifier, but even that was defeated by the chronic damp at the family's home in Sanderstead, near Croydon, south London. It collected five litres of water in just two days.

Now the Littles' detached home has become the first in the United Kingdom to be fitted with a Dutch damp-control system which has won awards in its wet and be-dyed home country.

The system was devised more than 20 years ago by Dutchman Henk Schrijver, who specialised in fireplaces and chimneys. He noticed that chimney walls were often drier than the rest of a house, even if the home was plagued by damp. Since 1976 Mr Schrijver's device has been installed in tens of thousands of homes in The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Portugal and Spain.

The Schrijver System is designed to draw damp air out of a house through a series of ceramic tubes cut into outside walls which act like mini-chimneys. Dry air is

drawn into the tubes and over a bell-shaped clay element, where a draught is created causing a cold spot. Damp from inside the house is sucked into the system where it condenses in the cold spot and is carried outside by the constant airflow.

Now Mr Schrijver's son, Frank, and Evert de Graaf, a director of the Dutch company, have come to Britain to try to interest owners of damp homes in their product. The Little family became their first customers last month.

"The wall in one bedroom was very wet," says Mrs Little. "Windows would run with water and pools formed in window sills."

"I don't think we will really know if it works until the autumn, but my husband and I were very impressed by the way the system was explained and how they worked when they installed it. They took a day-and-a-half and were so keen on

cleaning up afterwards that in the end I had to push them to go."

The system, which carries a money-back guarantee, costs £87 a running metre to install — about £1,500 for the average British semi, the Schrijver company says.

"It looks very neat and friends who have called since it was installed did not even notice. I am very impressed," says Mrs Little.

Damp caused by condensation has become a problem in many modern homes where double glazing, draught excluders and damp courses can over-insulate rooms. David Tiffin, a chartered buildings surveyor and spokesman for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, says: "We used to rely on natural draughts. By sticking in all these modern materials with impermeable finishes we are destroying the natural balance."

Mr Tiffin had not seen the Schrijver method, but said: "It may be a new product but the principle is not new in this country and devices that enhanced the natural draughts were used long before damp courses were thought of. They worked."

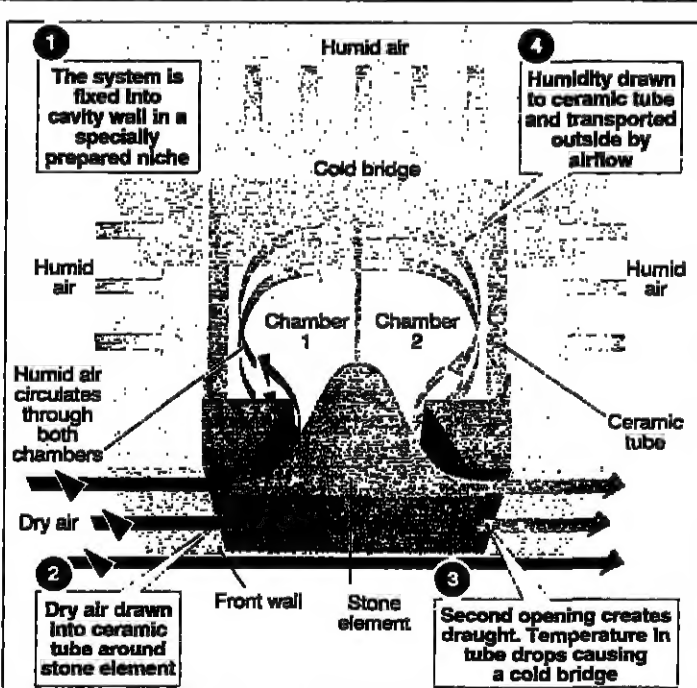
Other damp proofing specialists, who were also unaware of the Schrijver device, were less flattering. Mike Bromley, of the British Wood Preserving and Damp Proofing Association, said he could not see how it would work better than existing damp treatments, and Peter Trotman, of the Building Research Establishment, said: "I would think there would be a danger of salt contamination. I am highly sceptical."

Nonetheless, the Schrijver System has won first prize in a national Dutch competition for new inventions and says it received its patent in 1988 only after tests on hundreds of houses in The Netherlands were carried out. It

was a new product but the principle is not new in this country and devices that enhanced the natural draughts were used long before damp courses were thought of. They worked."

Other damp proofing specialists, who were also unaware of the Schrijver device, were less flattering. Mike Bromley, of the British Wood Preserving and Damp Proofing Association, said he could not see how it would work better than existing damp treatments, and Peter Trotman, of the Building Research Establishment, said: "I would think there would be a danger of salt contamination. I am highly sceptical."

Nonetheless, the Schrijver System has won first prize in a national Dutch competition for new inventions and says it received its patent in 1988 only after tests on hundreds of houses in The Netherlands were carried out. It



can be used in single brick and cavity walls, insulated and non-insulated homes, the Schrijver company says.

Professor Ingo Oldenkamp, of the Department of Design Engineering at Delft University in The Netherlands, has investigated the method and says: "I definitely works. At first I was very sceptical

when I heard about it, but when I visited some houses treated with the system in a very damp area I was surprised. The people who had damp homes before are now very happy and I am impressed by how efficient it is."

For information about the Schrijver System telephone 01737 552980.

New umpires put on the boundary

Surveyors can now settle disputes between neighbours over party walls, writes Stephen Brennan

ROBERT Frost wrote "good fences make good neighbours". To take it one step further, good laws make good fences, and so ensure good neighbours.

Apart from noise, boundary disputes must be the single biggest cause of disputes between people who live next door to each other.

Good relations can be strained if one owner discovers damage done to his property through work commenced on an adjoining wall by a neighbour, of which he had no warning. Costly litigation could well follow.

The Party Wall Act 1996, which comes into force on July 1, simplifies the procedures that must be observed if building work or treatment is applied to a wall shared by two properties and extends protection to people

whose only recourse now is legal action after the damage has been done.

Essentially, the Act will make it easier to work on a party wall. Outside London, owners have had complete ownership of their half of an adjoining wall and neighbours have had very limited rights over next door's half. This has meant that neighbours can object and halt work on a house that intrudes into their section of a shared wall, even if no damage will ensue. This is especially relevant to kitchen and loft extensions.

London has had a simplified procedure since the London Building Act 1939, which ensures that neighbours must be notified of proposed works on shared walls and provides a low-cost and streamlined form of arbitration in

disputes. It will be repealed on July 1 when the new Act — based very closely on the London Building Act — comes into force.

Under the new Act, the half of a wall lying on an owner's side

'The ideal solution is for both parties to choose one surveyor'

belongs to him and he has rights over the other half.

John Kelly is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He is a partner with the Kelly Langley Partnership based in Bromley, south London and Cambridge and specialises in

the new Act. He says: "The new legislation should simplify matters for householders."

"Anyone who wants to carry out works which affect a shared structure will be legally bound to inform their neighbours first and give them the opportunity to appoint a surveyor before works start."

Where a party wall exists, a great number of rights are given to building owners. They can raise it, thicken it, underpin it, cut into it (for a flashing, damp-proof course or a steel joist, for example) or even demolish it and rebuild it. The Act allows work to go ahead without a neighbour's permission as long as strict procedures are adhered to. This was not possible before. There are, however, some restrictions.

Mr Kelly says that before doing

any works, the building owner must serve notice giving his or her name and address, details of the work and when it will start. This must be at least two months before work begins and expires if the work has not started within a year or does not proceed at a reasonable speed.

"Any disputes are resolved through a simple procedure involving surveyors," says Mr Kelly. "The ideal solution is for both parties to choose one surveyor in whom they both have confidence to act as 'agreed surveyor' and settle all matters in contention."

"He can decide whether damage has been caused and how to put it right. This is the cheapest solution, especially for small works."

John Anstey, FRICS, of Anstey Horne & Co, has been involved



John Kelly: "simple procedure"

with the drafting of the Act from its inception. He has been campaigning for a change in the law since 1964, seeking to extend the London Act to the rest of England and Wales.

"It is such a good system that it is a pity that people have to go to court to sue each other when surveyors are capable of settling disputes amicably," he says.

To put the finishing touches to the home of your dreams...



...we consult the world's best designer. You!

With our Underwritten Part Exchange scheme you can, subject to status, buy a new home now - before it's even built or at an early stage of construction - and choose those finishing touches that'll turn a Berkeley Home into your dream home. Call us now for details.

Kent
East Peckham £116,000 to £122,500 01959 561499
 The Malthouse & River Lodge. A stunning new riverside development of five 3-bedroom terrace homes and two 2-bedroom apartments, overlooking the Medway. Each property has the benefit of two allocated parking spaces. *Both apartments now reserved.*
Chart Sutton £257,500 to £262,500 01959 561499
 Amber Lane. Three 5-bedroom detached houses in this charming village to the south of Maidstone. Each house benefits from a large plot size and country aspect to the rear.
Oxfordshire
East Henley From £194,500 01235 559111
 Crown Meadow. One 5-bedroom and three 4-bedroom houses on the edge of the village. Good access to the A34 and Didcot railway station (Paddington in about 40 minutes). *Only two remaining.*
Witlington Guide £550,000 01235 559111
 A substantial stone-built 5-bedroom house in a walled garden of two-thirds of an acre in the heart of this favoured village north of Oxford (five miles from J9 of the M40).
Witney From £99,950 01235 559111
 Swan Court, Carr Street. A superb development of charming stone built 3-bedroom town houses close to the centre of this lovely market town, designed to complement the Conservation Area.
Surrey
Fraserburg £189,950 to £215,000 01932 576500
 Ashley Mews. Close to the mainline railway station, an excellent development of nine two and three storey townhouses set in a terrace of four and a terrace of five, fronting The Fairfield.
Haslemere £199,950 to £310,000 01932 576500
 Wyntle Meadows, Cophthorne Road. A select development of ten detached 4 and 5 bedroom family homes with a private open amenity area for the exclusive use of residents.
Haslemere £199,950 to £201,000 01932 576500
 Wrenley Lane. Seven individually designed detached houses, thirteen apartments and three refurbished cottages in an exclusive ten acre parkland development. *Only one house remaining.*
Haslemere £225,000 01932 576500
 Old Mill Place. Set amidst the Surrey hills, two bungalows each comprising 3 bedrooms, en-suite facilities, separate dining/kitchen room and garage.
Sussex
Wigmore £215,000 to £250,000 01403 211230
 Neddingham Court. Situated in this popular East Sussex village close to Lewes, a spanning development of six traditionally styled 4 and 5 bedroom detached family homes located close to the village green and open farmland.

London
Beckenham, MW4 £275,000 to £425,000 01494 677777
 The Carbons, Brent Street. A unique development of twenty-eight thoughtfully designed apartments and penthouses, some with balconies and terraces. With 2/3 bedrooms, en suite facilities and lift access.

Marylebone, W1 £30,000 01932 576500
 Enford Court. A refurbishment to provide nine apartments in this sought-after area of central London close to Marylebone Underground and BR stations. *Only one remaining.*

Wimbledon, SW19 £189,950 to £367,500 01932 576500
 Marian Lodge, The Downs. A development of thirty-one luxury apartments featuring secure underground parking and a fully equipped gymnasium.

Buckinghamshire
Aylesbury From £158,500 01494 677777
 Oakfield Park Gardens. Situated in the heart of the town centre, an excellent development offering 2/3 bedroom apartments, with en-suite to master bedroom, lift and video entry system, and 3/4 bedroom cottage style houses. *Apartments only remain.*

Aylesbury From £279,950 01494 677777
 Orchard Gardens. A private cul-de-sac of six 5 bedroom detached homes with 3 reception rooms and 3 bathrooms. *Only two remaining.*

Chalfont St Giles £895,000 01494 677777
 Sherbourne Place, Nightingales Lane. A substantial mansion house, set in mature grounds and located in a prime residential road. With 5 bedrooms, 4 reception rooms, 4 bathrooms, games room and triple garage.

Little Gaddesden prices to be announced 01494 677777
 Ashridge Gate. An exclusive development of just eleven 3, 4 and 5 bedroom detached family homes, some backing onto open countryside.

Cambridgeshire
Cambridge £239,950 01277 222277
 Evening Court, Newmarket Road. 5 bedroom town houses with views over Midsummer Common and the River Cam from the upper floors. *Only one remaining.*

Essex
Loughton £175,000 to £495,000 0181 532 0461
 Great Woodcote Park. Surrounded by Epping Forest, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom houses with a generous entrance and 24 hour security. CALL NOW TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN OUR NEW RELEASE OF SMALLER HOMES.

Havering-atte-Bower £329,950 01277 222277
 Elmer Avenue. A rare opportunity to purchase a single 5 bedroom detached home in this sought-after village.

Hampshire
Southampton £235,000 to £250,000 01256 814314
 West End. Four detached 5 bedroom family homes in this favoured residential part of Southampton. Convenient for the M27/M3 and Southampton (Park Way) station.

FOR DETAILS OF THESE AND MANY MORE NEW HOMES ACROSS LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST CALL ANY OF OUR SALES OFFICES.

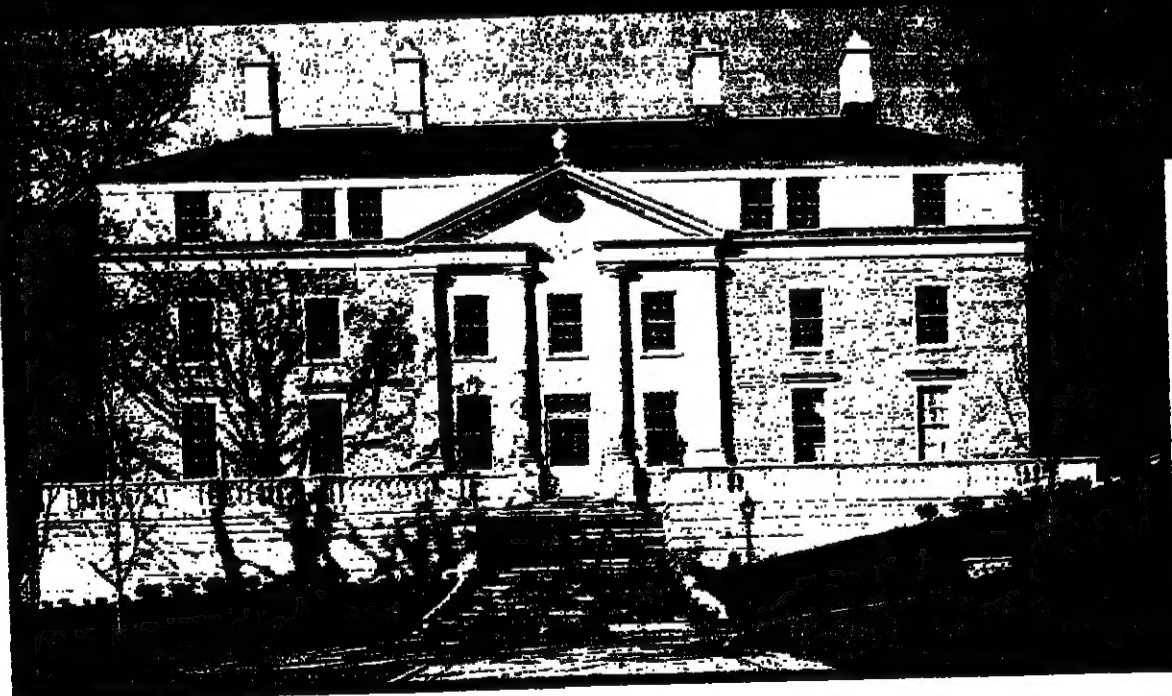
show home or sales centre open daily from 10am
 Details and prices correct at the time of going to press.

See us on: <http://www.berkeleygroup.com>

Above all else, it's a Berkeley Home

Berkeley
 HOMES
 QUALITY TO APPRECIATE

Classical Apartments in the heart of Georgian Bath



Cavendish Lodge

BATH

Set within substantial private grounds, and approached via a magnificent drive with private security gates and flanked by two lodges, Cavendish Lodge has been designed as a traditional country house incorporating many architectural features. The main house provides 20 luxury two and three bedroom apartments many with views across Bath and all with high ceilings and well proportioned rooms.

Beaufort Homes
 A member of the Berkeley Group plc

COBB FARR

SAVILLS
 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

Prices from £285,000

Sales office open weekdays 10am - 4pm weekends 10am-5pm 01225 329079
 Cavendish Lodge, Cavendish Road, Bath.

Clapham Common West Side

Never before this Century, has there been an opportunity to reserve either a 3 or 4 bedroom family villa within such a landmark development on Clapham Common.



a development by
Rialto
 Homes

SALES OFFICE
 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
 0171 585 2029
 ACCESS VIA ROSENEATH ROAD
 OFF CLAPHAM COMMON WEST SIDE

HAMPTONS
 For further information call FREE on
 0800 0181515